

THE JOURNAL

March 17, 2000 • 50 cents (tax included)

Inside Albany High students work on dream of a cafe to call their own [A3]

Arts 'Mission to Mars' fails to take off [C3]

Park-tax measure nears approval

By Kate Darby Rauch

EL CERRITO — It's not final, but supporters of Measure A are growing more confident that the city's tax measure for parks is headed for success.

In the election-day count last week, the tax measure to renovate the city's swimming pool and restore bathrooms at several parks was just four votes ahead of the two-thirds approval it needs. Contra Costa County election officials said Tuesday that the latest tally of absentee and provisional ballots has thrust the measure ahead by 96 votes.

According to Hugh Denton, assistant county registrar of voters, there are 3,000 ballots remaining to be tallied county-wide. They may not be counted for another week, but he said it is doubtful that more than a few dozen come from El Cerrito.

"I think that would be safe to say that Measure A has passed," he said.

"We try not to count our chickens, but it's feeling pretty good around here," said Samantha Kelman, a supervisor in charge of city swim programs. "So many people worked so hard on this."

Measure A sought about \$58 annually per household to help finance the pool work, repair the Canyon Trails Park clubhouse and refurbish bathrooms in Huber, Harding and Poinsett parks. If passed, the 20-year tax will raise about \$5.3 million.

The measure would establish a capital maintenance fund — money set aside annually to cover upkeep and repairs.

Opponents said the city should focus first on repairs to roads and infrastructure. A consultant hired by the city estimates it will cost as much as \$10 million to bring El Cerrito's roads into top shape.

"We just didn't work hard enough," said Bob Winslow, an opponent who acknowledged the measure appeared headed for victory. "All we can do is wait

MEASURE A

El Cerrito Swim Tax 2/3

Count as of March 14	Percentage
Yes 5,868	67.0%
No 2,886	33.0%

until the rest of the votes are counted."

Councilwoman Gina Brusatori attributes the measure's popularity to a "big tent" campaign. Supporters of the measure reached out even to people normally opposed to new taxes "instead of going off into a room and saying, 'We know what's right,'" said Brusatori.

All five council members supported the measure.

Councilman Larry Damon said the attention must now go to the work. "We've got to deliver under budget and under



ARCHITECT'S rendering of the new building planned by Honda of El Cerrito.

Car dealership relocation gets OK

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Honda of El Cerrito got a green light last week for plans to move to a larger site across the street and a little south of its current location.

The Planning Commission approved plans for new Honda facilities to be located at 11701 San Pablo Ave., the old Food Bowl and International House of Pancakes site.

Current plans for the 158,020-square-foot site include a 37,839-square-foot building for automobile sales and service, a vehicle-display pavilion at the corner of Knott and San Pablo avenues and a 44-foot-tall lighted sign situated toward Interstate 80.

The Honda plan still has to be reviewed by the Design Review Board and parts of the plan will need City Council approval. About 28 percent of the new site is located in Richmond and will require approval from that city's design-review board and planning commission.

The Planning Commission recommended the City Council amend the city's sign ordinance to allow for a Honda freeway sign no taller than 44 feet, pending DRB study and recommendation. The city's sign ordinance currently allows for a maximum 30-foot sign and it would have to be modified to allow for a taller sign.

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HERMAN BUSTAMANTE JR.

HERD IT through the playground. Students from Kathryn Lee and Deborah Robinson's kindergarten classes at El Cerrito's Prospect Sierra School run with a visiting goat last Friday. The school encourages families to share interesting things in their lives with students. The family of Katie Caruso, right, is friends with a family that raises animals on a Napa ranch, and last week it was Katie's turn to show and tell three of the baby goats.

Councilwoman makes appeal for blood donors

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — You don't have to play hockey to give blood, just come to the Fire Department on Friday, March 24, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The city is sponsoring a blood drive for city employees and anyone else who wants to donate some of the precious commodity.

Councilwoman Gina Brusatori was the impetus behind the blood drive effort. Brusatori has donated blood every eight weeks since 1986 when her father had to have bypass surgery.

"Ever since then, I've been donating blood," Brusatori said. "I'm on the list

and they call me, believe me."

She said there is a shortage of blood in blood banks and that most people don't donate blood on a regular basis.

"A lot of people get interested in donating blood, like myself, who had a personal reason to first get involved, and in most cases they don't continue it," Brusatori said. She also said that the average age of blood donors increases every year.

"The classic blood donor is someone who was alive during World War II" and got into the habit of giving blood during the war years, Brusatori said.

City staff member Cheryl Mosby is coordinating the blood drive for the city. "This is the first one we've had in a very long time," she said. So far 10 people, mostly city employees, have signed up to donate blood, but more are expected.

To donate, call Mosby at 215-4315 to make an appointment. The drive will be in the Fire Department day room at 10900 San Pablo Ave., March 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fruit juices, cookies and assorted snacks will be provided.

AUSD axes one administrator, adds another

Decision pink slipping director of curriculum draws criticism

By James Carter

ALBANY — Albany Unified School District Director of Curriculum Marianne Camp received a pink slip March 14, and many parents were red-faced when Superintendent of Schools Gary Mills presented a restructuring plan at a board of education meeting Tuesday, one that does not include a position for Camp.

The superintendent's proposal would reorganize the district, creating a new, strong deputy superintendent position and eliminating the director of curriculum post.

The deputy superintendent would perform all functions currently done by the assistant superintendent. However, the workload for that position would be reduced, mainly in the area of budget

preparation and monitoring, according to the plan. The plan does not specify who would be shifted.

Mills recommended that Constance Hubbard, currently the assistant superintendent, be promoted to the new deputy superintendent post.

Support for service areas would be

See DISTRICT, Page A12

Development manager decision delayed

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — The City Council last week gave final approval to create an Economic Development Board, but did not approve a plan to hire a consultant to begin the selection process for an economic development manager.

The council decided that the Economic Development Board should be formed first; then the board, with help from staff and others, would begin the process to select a manager.

"I'm not terribly opposed to the use of consultants," El Cerrito resident Marcia Grossman told the City Council last week's meeting. "I, however, do question the use of consultants to develop job description, especially for a sensitive position as critical a position as this one."

Grossman had a human resources consulting business for more than six years and was the head of human resources for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for six years in Washington, D.C. She said a consultant could be

used to help find the right economic development person for El Cerrito, but only after the city develops such things as job criteria, job description and salary range for the new position.

Council members seemed to agree with Grossman and resident Thom Stark, who also spoke against the proposal to hire a consultant.

"I would not go with this until we have definitively characterized the salient el-

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Corned beef and cabbage

The El Cerrito Lions Club and the El Cerrito-Albany Masonic Lodge will celebrate St. Patrick's Day today with a benefit corned beef and cabbage dinner at the Masonic Center, 6922 Stockton Ave., 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults and \$5 for children, and can be purchased in advance from members of either organization and will also be available at the door. The Lions Club's share of the dinner proceeds will go to help fund sight conservation projects, while the Masons' share of the profits will go to finance improvements in the Masonic Center building.

Ohlone Greenway walks

Join Sustainable El Cerrito for weekly explorations of El Cerrito's pathways and neighborhoods. Get some exercise while you get to know the city a little better. It starts with mid-morning walks on and near the Ohlone Greenway, which runs under the BART tracks, and walks at a moderate pace. Each month, the group will walk in a different area of town. Afternoon, evening and weekend walks may be arranged in the future. If you would like to help organize or lead a walk in your neighborhood or other area, let us know. The walks are every Wednesday in March, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or so. Meet at Richard Itaya Plaza: Manila and the Greenway near the DMV. Details: 510-232-6466

Parent University

Parent University 2000, aka "Parenting 101: What You Never Learned in School," happens Saturday, March 25, at Albany Middle School 8:30 a.m.-noon. Following registration, the keynote speaker will present "The Power of Parenting: Bringing Resiliency and Asset Development to Life" at 9 a.m. There will be four choices of workshops at 10:10 a.m., and four different choices at 11:10 a.m. The eight workshops cover a variety of parenting concerns such as "Keeping Children Safe

Between Home and School," "The Challenges of Blended Families," and "How to Get Your Teen-agers to Take Responsibility for Their Actions." Supplemental materials on community resources for parents of elementary, middle and high school students will be available. Child care and refreshments will also be provided. The entire program, sponsored by Albany PTA Council and various community organizations, is free of charge.

AUSD special meeting

A special meeting of the Albany Unified School District Board of Education has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m., in the Cornell School multi-purpose room, 901 Cornell Ave., Albany, to discuss the use of Albany Pool, and district goals and development. In addition, prior to the regular board meeting of March 14, 5 p.m., Dr. Bill Cook of The Cambridge Group will speak to the board in open session regarding strategic planning. This session will also take place in the Cornell School multi-purpose room.

The art of magic

At the Albany Community Center Theater, "Learn the Art of Magic" with master magician Jay Alexander, star of Broderbund Software's "Learn the Art of Magic" popular CD Rom game, entertains with disappearing volunteers and reappearing rabbits. The show is Sunday, March 19, 11 a.m.-noon, at the Albany Community Center Theater, 1249 Marin Ave., near San Pablo Avenue in Albany. Tickets are \$7 per person, under 2 years old free. Details: 652-7469.

Albany Preschool

Applications are now being accepted for the fall afternoon preschool program at Albany Preschool, located at 850 Masonic Ave. The hours of this non-parent participation program are noon-3 p.m., or noon-5 p.m., with a three- or five-day option. The program is for chil-

dren who will be at least three years old by Dec. 2. Applications will be reviewed in the order received, with priority given to Albany residents. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee to be paid at the time of registration. Early application is recommended, as openings are limited. Details: 527-6403.

Library preschool fun

Don't miss Saturday morning preschool stories and films at the Albany Library, 1217 Marin Ave., 11 a.m., April 22. Geared to ages 3-5, the story-and-film series is free.

Family storytime

All ages are welcome when the free family storytime program returns to the Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., on Tuesday evenings. Details: 524-3043.

Shelter operations class

The Red Cross always helps in an emergency, but they may not be here right away. With proper training, community members can set up and operate shelter sites. When the Red Cross arrives, shelters that are operating under Red Cross guidelines can receive support, supplies and staffing. On Saturday, March 25, there will be a special opportunity for El Cerrito and Kensington residents to learn Red Cross Shelter Operations at a free class sponsored by the NEAT Emergency Preparedness Program. The class will be held 9 a.m.-noon at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser. Reservations required. Call 510-525-7268 to reserve space in this free class.

Skytown benefit

The Skytown Parent Cooperative Preschool, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington, will hold a large garage sale to benefit the school on April 1, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. All donations to the garage sale are tax-deductible. Details: 526-8485.

Attempted cyber crime reported

By James Carter

EL CERRITO — An unknown person reportedly opened a charge account via the Internet using another person's personal profile, according to a police report filed by a 23-year-old man on Feb. 21.

Police report that someone entered an automobile parked on the 7600 block of Errol Drive March 3, and stole a "fast track" bridge toll card.

Early in the morning of March 3, police say more than \$800 in valuables were stolen from an unlocked car parked in an open garage on the 6600 block of Gatto Street.

At 1:45 p.m., March 3, a 41-year-old man with a tattoo that read Death Before Dishonor tried to cash a forged check at Wells Fargo Bank on the 9800 block of San Pablo Avenue, said police. Meanwhile a 46-year-old man attempted to do the same. When cashiers called their bluff, both men made a run for it, said police. The tattooed man was collared while the other got away, according to police reports.

Hours later, at the same Wells Fargo branch, a 21-year-old woman attempted to withdraw funds from an account she established with a forged check days before, said police. Accompanied by a 33-year-old man, the woman asked a clerk to cash another check. That draft that was also fraudulent, said police. But the tables were turned and the filmmaker artist was arrested, according to a police report. Officers learned her man—apparently the woman's ride home—had the keys to a stolen car parked outside. The man was taken into custody.

Someone reportedly reached in through a doggy hatch and unlocked the door to a home on the 1700 block of Avenue, March 3, according to police. The crook is accused of stealing over \$2,300 in jewelry and hard cash before getting away.

Police chased a 19-year-old man after he reportedly raced recklessly to avoid them at South 56th and Potrero Avenue the evening of March 3. At one point the man abandoned his car and made a break for it, but flanked by officers on all sides, was trapped in the dragnet and arrested for possession of stolen property, according to official reports.

On the afternoon of March 6, an unknown suspect burst into a home on the 6800 block of Cutting Boulevard and stole jewelry, cash and a camera, police report.

At 6:10 p.m. March 6, a 24-year-old Pinole woman and a 38-year-old man were arrested for pocketing computer-printer ink cartridges from Target.

As customers shopped in a busy shoe store in El Cerrito Plaza March 8, a man in his late 20s or early 30s sized up the place then left, only to return when business slowed, police said.

Police said the man picked out a style of shoe he liked, and when the clerk went to the stock area to retrieve them, followed, pulled a gun, and ordered the salesman and other employees into the bathroom, which he secured shut with a garbage can. Police say the suspect stole \$160 in cash, then fled. Employees freed themselves 10 minutes later and called the authorities. The suspect is described as an African-American male in his early 30s, with a medium complexion and a slight mustache. Police said he was wearing a stocking cap, but employees said he had short hair or was balding.

On March 9, police report someone climbed through the unlocked rear window of a home on the 600 block of Liberty Street. The suspect then picked out a few things, including women's clothing, jewelry, and cosmetics, bagged the goods, then walked out the front door.

A suspect pulled a gun on two employees at a flower shop on the

POLICE REPORTS

11200 block of San Pablo Avenue March 9, ordered them to open a cash drawer then marched to the stairs at gunpoint, said police. They lay on the floor, the suspect described as an African-American man in his late 20s, 6 feet tall, medium build, balding, with a mustache and a light complexion.

On March 10, a suspect entered into a residence on the 1700 block of Ganges Avenue, and stole the home, said police.

Someone reportedly stole a SUV parked on the 500 block of Liberty Street and stole \$100 in cash sometime between March 11 and 11, said police.

A suspect crashed open the door of a house on the 7200 block of Hotchkiss Avenue on March 11, stole money and jewelry worth over \$1,000, according to police reports.

Police say a 43-year-old man got into an argument with a woman on March 11, and was quickly escalated into a physical fight. The man, who was 5 feet 10 inches tall, the fracas received a punch.

After smashing through the door of an automobile parked on the 1700 block of Eastshore Boulevard sometime during the night of March 11 or 12, police report a would-be car thief tried to wire the vehicle but failed.

Someone cut through a master lock and cracked open a garage door on 2500 block of Street March 10, before an alarm sounded and scared away the suspect, according to police reports.

Police: Man arrested near station was drunk

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — On the night of March 5, officers observed a man in front of the police station who was having difficulty walking. The 30-year-old Albany man was found to be intoxicated and was also found to have an outstanding warrant for public intoxication. He was arrested on suspicion of public intoxication, cited and released when sober.

On the afternoon of March 6, a resident on the 1100 block of Nielson Street reported that someone broke into his house through a window, ransacked the house and stole items.

On the morning of March 7, officers responded to Albany High School reports of two boys fighting. The boys were suspended for five days.

At about 12:30 a.m. on March 8, officers stopped a burgundy 1987 Volkswagen for speeding on San Pablo Avenue near Marin Avenue. The driver, a 51-year-old Hercules man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the field sobriety test and his breath test was 2.0/19. He was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving, cited and released when sober. The car was impounded.

At about 2 a.m. on March 8, officers located a 1975 Toyota SW on San Pablo Avenue near Solano Avenue that had been reported as stolen from Richmond. The car was towed and the owner notified.

At about 2:30 a.m. on March 8, officers stopped a 1985 Nissan on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue

for a traffic violation. The driver, a 34-year-old Vallejo man, was found to have two outstanding warrants from Orange County. He was arrested and processed without incident. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

On the afternoon of March 8, officers responded to Albany Middle School at the request of school administration to take a report regarding eight to nine juveniles who were involved in a marijuana transaction.

On the morning of March 9, a resident on the 1600 block of Sonoma Avenue reported that during the night someone broke into her gold 1998 Toyota minivan and stole items.

At about 11:30 p.m. on March 9, Albany officers stopped two cars on the 1100 block of San Pablo Avenue that police said were racing and driving recklessly. Officers learned that the drivers were a boyfriend and girlfriend who were having an argument which resulted in the 19-year-old Berkeley man chasing the 19-year-old Oakland woman. The Berkeley man was arrested for causing damage to the woman's car when he hit it repeatedly with his fist. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

At about 4 p.m. on March 10, officers stopped a blue 1982 Toyota on Buchanan Street for a traffic violation. The driver, a 26-year-old Oak-

land man, was found to have a standing warrant from Oakland amount of \$811 and he was arrested on Alameda County grand theft auto. He was arrested and released with a Notice to Appear.

On the evening of March 9, officers were called to an auto shop on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue while the dealership in possession of a car that was chased using false identification person returning the car and was closely and hid under a car in a showroom. Officers found the car. The 35-year-old Vallejo man was arrested and transported to Berkeley jail.

Just after midnight on March 9, officers stopped a green 1980 Civic on San Pablo Avenue near Brighton Street for erratic driving having no front license plate. The driver, an 18-year-old Susan City man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested, cited and released when sober.

On the morning of March 10, a resident on the 1000 block of Avenue reported that during the night his blue 1993 Toyota was stolen. It was parked in front of his home. On the morning of March 10, a resident on the 1000 block of Avenue reported that someone broke into

See ALBANY, Page C3

Focus on Copy Express

By Roxanne Wiley

The Copy Express is so much more than the name implies. Yes you can make copies there quickly or have them made for you.

You can send a gift, have it wrapped in gorgeous paper and frou-frou and buy a card to go with it and have everything mailed. Many, many other services are offered.

Let's start at the beginning. Mojgan Fahima and Behnam Mirabdal, or Ben as he is commonly known, are not married to each other, but rather Mojgan is married to Ben's brother.

Most people do not understand this. Ben is quite single, thank you.

They opened their store on Feb. 14, 1995, and just last month celebrated their fifth year in business together.

As I mentioned, this store offers a myriad of services. It has big copiers, small copiers and one color copier, so it is well-equipped to handle any type of job, whether you do the copying or they do it for you.

The store sells stamps at the regular cost, has great greeting cards, sells boxes, shipping supplies (bubble envelopes) and other stuff that helps you get something from A to B.

It also makes fliers, brochures, programs, raffle tickets and anything else you can think of, and can ship your precious cargo via UPS, Fed Ex or DHL.

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Golden Gate Fields mixer for the chamber

On March 22, the mother of all mixers will be held at Golden Gate Fields at the Turf Club from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The mixer celebrates the opening of the spring-racing period and we look forward to it. Please RSVP the chamber at 525-1771 no later than March 20.

Albany Day at the races

April 22 will be Albany's day at Golden Gate Fields. The event will be a family affair with face painting, pony rides, a petting zoo and various booths with many organizations represented.

An Albany fire truck with firemen as well as the Albany Police Department will be there.

Tickets for \$1 each are available at the chamber. Tickets include gate entry as well as a chance for one of the many prizes that will be drawn that afternoon.

Please put this on your calendar and come to the races!

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra 1999-2000 Season

Kent Nagano, Music Director & Conductor

PROGRAM III

Thursday, March 23

Benjamin Antara
Bach Partita No. 3
Harvey Scena
Shostakovich Symphony No. 8

PROGRAM IV

Thursday, June 22

Berio Sequenza for solo flute
Mozart Concerto for Flute and Harp
Bruckner Symphony No. 6

FREE Under Construction Concert
Sunday, June 18, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Presbyterian Church,
2727 College Ave.

PRE-CONCERT DINNERS

Meet visiting composers, guest artists and members of the Berkeley Symphony Board in an intimate setting. Dinners are at 5:30 p.m., each concert night, and include three courses, wine and coffee or tea. \$40/Dinner.

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SINGLE

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DOMESTIC

Sample Discounted Fares from San Francisco (Each Way Based Upon Round Trip Purchase)

DESTINATIONS	FARES	DESTINATIONS	FARES
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Miami	\$157	Albuquerque	\$121
Minneapolis	\$128	Chicago	\$144
Orlando	\$162	Tampa	\$129
Cleveland	\$174	Detroit	\$143
Philadelphia	\$144	Columbus	\$154
Boston	\$150	St. Lauderdale	\$156
Houston	\$137	Denver	\$141
Atlanta	\$152	Charlotte	\$139
Tucson	\$125		

INTERNATIONAL

Sample Discounted Fares from San Francisco (Each Way Based Upon Round Trip Purchase)

DESTINATIONS	FARES	DESTINATIONS	FARES
Milan	\$179	Cairo	\$446
Paris	\$159	Lisbon	\$179
London	\$167	Toronto, CAN	\$166
Mexico City	\$137	Cancun	\$187
Tel Aviv	\$374		

Terms & Conditions: Fares are subject to change without notice. Taxes are not guaranteed until tickets are issued. Restrictions apply on advance purchase and excursion fares; some fares are non-refundable and may require a service charge along with an additional collection for any changes. Fares do not include \$511 airport passenger facility charges where applicable. International fares do not include taxes/fees/charges of up to \$75. Eligibility requirements, seating limitations and/or purchase and travel restrictions may apply. *May not apply to all destinations.

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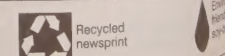
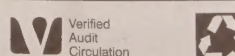
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IN BRIEF

'Once Upon a Mattress'
plays three times

ALBANY — The students at Albany High School perform the classic musical, "Once Upon a Mattress" through Sunday at the AHS Little Theatre, 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany.

Performances are Friday, March 17, 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 18, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 19, 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens, \$7 for general audience. Tickets can be reserved at 510-558-6550, ext. 6588, or purchased at the door. Proceeds support Albany High's drama and fine arts departments.

Chapter to hear update on Bay Trail project

The topic of the West Contra Costa Sierra Club meeting on March 17 is "The San Francisco Bay Trail: Its Progress and Route through West County" Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m., at Northminster Presbyterian Church Makemie Hall, 545 Ashbury St., in El Cerrito.

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a hiking and biking trail around the Bay. When the trail is completed, it will stretch some 400 miles through seven Bay Area counties. In West Contra Costa County, the trail will connect local communities and such scenic gems as Point Isabel, Marina del Rey, Point Richmond, Point Molate, Wildcat Creek, and Point Pinole.

Janet McBryde, a Bay Trail coordinator from the Association of Bay Area Governments, will discuss Bay Trail development and show slides of some of the developed scenic sites along the trail. Phil Maynard, long-time Group Executive Committee member and member of the Trails in Richmond Action Committee, will discuss the planned route of the Bay Trail through West Contra Costa County.

Come hear how you can help make the Bay Trail a reality. For more information, call Maynard at 510-337-7520.

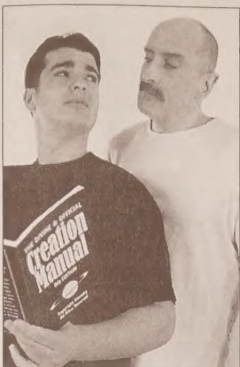
'Tinker's Nebula'
alights in Bay Area

EL CERRITO — A new theater company, Bay Stage, presents "Tinker's Nebula" a play by Michael Thomas Tower on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, March 17 through April 1 on the stage of the Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Poma Avenue at Mooser Lane. Bay Stage is affiliated with Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

"Tinker's Nebula is the story of a creation—somewhere, sometime—when things don't get off to a good start at all.

"This ain't no Adam and Eve story," states the press material. "In the creation, they got all the good stuff. But this time around, handy raw materials like feathers, softness, moisture, melody and color are all used up. The creators now have to make do with a few rocks, the color gray, bits of string and some rusted nails.

"Despite their obstacles, the creators do manage to jury rig some primitive people, and off we go. Soon, God's inventions are learning to cope with the world, with themselves and with each other, and in



MICHAEL THOMAS TOWER

MICHAEL COLUCCI as V'dz and Richard Johnson as G'tzn in "Tinker's Nebula" at Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

the process they discover what it means to be human."

Performances are at 8 p.m., except Sundays, when the production starts at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 general admission \$12 for seniors, students, groups and TBA members. Box office: 510-464-3000. Details: 510-444-7063.

Grant will help grow Project SEED

West Contra Costa Schools Superintendent Gloria Johnston has announced that the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation has made a grant to support the expansion of Project SEED in West Contra Costa County schools.

Project SEED is a math program that teaches concepts in geometry, algebra and calculus to elementary students.

"Project SEED successfully engages our students in advanced mathematics before they get the false message that his subject is too difficult for them," Johnston said. "Inspiring confidence in our students early on is key to reforming instruction in our district, especially in mathematics."

Project SEED's mathematics specialists teach high school and college mathematics topics in elementary schools but in ways that make abstract mathematics easy to understand for elementary students.

According to the West Contra Costa Unified School District, long-term evaluations of the program indicate that students who participate in the program post higher math scores than a matched comparison group. The district also says when the students enter high school, they enroll in more advanced mathematics courses.

Helen Smiler, California director

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Albany teens dream of a cafe to call their own

Upcoming plans for a high school hangout will soon have the Albany community buzzing over the potential grand opening of a cafe run by and for students.

"I'm juiced," says Albany High School's Jennifer Nejad, vice president of the Associated Student Government. "I hate how there's nothing to do in Albany."

Albany's social scene could change in a matter of months if dreams really do come true. Karaoke, open mike poetry, bands—the possibilities are endless when it comes down to the imagination and ambition of students and parents with a cause.

Ever since Albany Councilman Ed McManus and his wife, Shannon, closed McManus' Cafe and Pub in December, a group of students and adults has been crusading to turn the vacant storefront into a gathering place for teen-agers. The clock is ticking as McManus' lease expires Oct. 31 with an option to renew by May 1.

"It looked like a dead deal," says Sandy Bredt, assistant director of Community Learning Services, a year-old nonprofit organization based in Albany and Oakland that specializes in educational projects. "We didn't have the money to pay the lease."

CLS has since stepped in to assume financial responsibility of the property for the next six months under the condition that the cafe will have a "green emphasis," according to the mandates of CLS sponsor the Alameda County Waste Management Authority.

of Project SEED, says she welcomes the grant from the foundation because it will reach more students and allow the program to coach more teachers in this method.

Last year the program reached more than 14,000 students at schools in not only West Contra Costa County but in Berkeley, Oakland, Dallas, Detroit, Philadelphia, Indianapolis and Milwaukee.

Paratransit program for disabled, seniors

RICHMOND — Richmond's Paratransit Program provides low-cost transportation services for residents of Richmond, North Richmond, Kensington and El Sobrante who have difficulty accessing public transportation because of a disability, and for those older than 65 years.

Individuals in wheelchairs who require a lift-equipped vehicle qualify for the van program.

The program is in addition to the paratransit services provided by the East Bay Paratransit Consortium of AC Transit and BART which is limited to transportation services that fall under the Americans with Dis-

HOW TO HELP

■ Donations may be sent to: Community Learning Services, c/o Carol Sly, CLS executive director, 912 Curtis St., Albany, CA 94706. Contact: Carol Sly, 510-524-0245.

■ Thursday March 23, Clean-up Event, 3:15 p.m., McManus' Cafe and Pub, 1309 Solano Ave., Albany.

■ Sunday March 26, Information and Fund-raising Reception, 4-6 p.m., McManus' Cafe and Pub, 1309 Solano Ave., Albany. Open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

For you non-environmentalists, having a strong green presence means everything must stem from an environmental perspective so that "decisions are not going to harm or take away from the next generation. It doesn't mean the color green," Bredt explains with a laugh.

Comprised of Bredt, Sly, McManus, City Councilman Allan Maris, Molly Mitchell, Janet Seltzer and Julie Winkelstein, the cafe's ad hoc committee recently tested out the environmental slant with the AHS Leadership class.

Early reaction indicates that if all goes according to plan, the currently unnamed cafe will have a ready market of enthusiastic teen-agers. The property is ideally located on Solano

Avenue near the corner of Key Route Boulevard just a moment's walk from the high school.

"I think the cafe will be good thing," junior Sixiao Guo says. "Albany teens have nowhere to go. I think it'll keep kids off the street and give them a place to hang out."

"Everyone says there's nothing to do in Albany," agrees junior Amy Jin. "It's a perfect idea. It's what I've always wanted."

But according to CLS executive director Carol Sly, a minimum of \$10,000 will be needed to get the cafe on its feet. This hefty chunk of change includes rent, insurance and permits but not food expenses. McManus says long-term fund-raising goals will probably peak in the neighborhood of \$18,000.

"As far as insurance goes, our nonprofit holds a lot of insurance already, including teens as employees. However, a cafe requires product liability and a couple of other things we don't have, all related to running a public place with food," Sly says.

Currently under discussion are the hours of operation and range of activities to be implemented at the cafe.

A survey about the types of food and programs will be distributed to AHS students within the next month.

"It'll be a public place, but we're going to target high school kids," Sly says.

In addition to showcasing student artwork on the walls and possibly being a place to study with friends, the cafe may also be rented out to other

Objects in mirror are closer than they appear

By Amy Chen

interest groups during the school day until start-up costs are recovered.

The goal of a potentially profitable cafe remains an elusive dream, but could very well become a reality with enough student, parental and general community support.

Eager students envision learning first-hand about building a business from the ground up.

"For every major task, there will be a student apprenticed or mentored by an adult," Bredt says. "Over time, it'll become a paid gig."

Sophomore Miguel Irazabal understands the cafe will need volunteers before the paychecks can start rolling in. That detail has not stopped Irazabal from rolling up his own sleeves to help.

"I really want this to happen," he says.

Major fund-raising ideas on the horizon include hosting a walk-a-thon and applying for grants. The McManuses have generously agreed to donate the interior furniture, which includes a refrigerator, tables and chairs.

But as Bredt says, "We have a whole lot of work before now and April when we meet again with our board. A whole lot of work."

abilities Act. Richmond's program accommodates ride needs not met by the ADA program.

For information, call 510-307-8026 and 510-307-8027.

Downtown Richmond public art dedication

RICHMOND — A dedication in honor of the completion of the downtown public-art project, "Century Xing," by Richmond artist John Wehrle, is scheduled for Saturday.

The free dedication, presented by the Richmond Redevelopment Agency and the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission, begins 1 p.m. at the project site, 19th Street and Macdonald Avenue.

The artwork, which follows a railroad and transportation theme, combines image, text and relief sculpture on a 24,000-square-foot area of the Macdonald Avenue underpass at the

Richmond BART and Amtrak stations. The mural was completed over a five-month period with six assistants, including artists Hershell West, Ron Rasure, Donald Anderson and Richmond Art Center students, Katya Meza, Carlos Nolasco and Christina Barry.

Wehrle's other Richmond murals are on San Pablo Avenue at the Interstate 80 overpass, Macdonald Av-

enue near San Pablo Avenue, and the tunnel entrance in the Point Richmond area. Wehrle has been painting murals for more than 25 years, including work for the San Francisco De Young Museum, the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and numerous public commissions throughout California.

For information, call 510-620-6797 or 510-235-3528.

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COLLAGE DE MUSICA 2000 Gala celebrating Michael Morgan's 10th Anniversary. Sat, April 29. Call 510-444-0801 for information.

Opinion

VIEWPOINT

A special place is threatened

By Rebecca C. Rider
Keith B. Rider

We are writing to express concern over the university and Albany's plans to develop the community garden area at the University Village in Albany. The university is planning to convert this garden into soccer and baseball fields.

In a way, it doesn't matter whether this land is turned into more market-rate housing or baseball and soccer fields for the local little league, it results in the same thing—the destruction of a very special, very rare place.

While in many ways both gardens and sports fields serve similar purposes, is it really right to trade one for the other? Is it right to destroy one sense of community for another? Is it right to take away one of the few remaining open spaces and wildlife habitats from the creatures that have no where else to go? Is it right to destroy one community's dreams, accomplishments, knowledge, and peace to establish a different set for another community.

For years the community garden has served as a highly valued resource for the residents of the University Village. In fact, when my husband applied to Berkeley, being able to have a plot in the garden was one of the primary reasons we chose to move to University Village.

Families, including our own, have worked very hard to turn this high-clay content soil into soil rich in nutrients and ideal for growing vegetables, fruits, and flowers. The amount of time and effort that has gone in to creating such a place is immeasurable.

The produce that grows here is unlike the produce you find in the grocery stores. It is sweeter, more ripe, of better quality, and at the same time it is organic and natural since our garden does not use pesticides.

At the end of the growing season, which never really ends here, each plot has produced not just vegetables, but a feeling of success and accomplishment for each and every person who took part in the effort. From the oldest (grandparents from across the globe) to the youngest (toddlers playing and learning in the dirt), everyone gains something personal and profound from this work.

We all take pride in our efforts and we share our knowledge. In many ways, this is the place where the most intimate community interaction takes place. What is more natural than calling out greetings while watering your plot, or when you see that your neighbors tomatoes look more healthier than yours, simply asking them what the trick is?

In this way, veteran gardeners help newer gardeners, friends are made, stories are traded, and the community ties are strengthened and broadened.

I have actually arranged my work schedule so that I can spend an hour every evening in the garden. I get home, change into grubby jeans and go down and wa-

ter, weed, or pick the vegetables.

Our garden is currently completely under water from the recent rains (as it is every year at this time), but I am eagerly awaiting the time when it dries out, because this time means so much to me.

It helps me decompress from a very stressful job, in a way, it renews me so I can face the challenges of a new day. In a matter of minutes, I feel the stress of the day wash away. I doubt very much that my feelings are unique in this experience. If one hour does so much for me, just think of how much it is doing for our community day in and day out.

Often my husband and I spot various kinds of wildlife around the garden. We have at least one resident, red-shouldered hawk—we take turns peaking at him through binoculars from our balcony, which overlooks the garden—and several types of garden snakes.

Recently, while we have been eating dinner, we have opened the window so that we can hear the croaking of frogs that inhabit the creek which borders the garden and the stands of trees along the garden's western edge.

These animals have already lost so much in the immediate area—from the intensive use of the adjacent soccer fields and baseball diamonds, and from the university's decision to sell a lot to the U.S. Postal Service—that it is a shame that we must push them out of one of the last small pieces of open space and semi-natural habitats that they have left.

Here, the hawk still has prey to hunt, the snake and other small animals still have a chance to get away from him in the tall grass surrounding our plots, and the frogs still live and breed in the surrounding creek.

Though development would definitely wipe this area clean of such species, even recreational fields will destroy this fragile ecosystem.

The amount of landscaping that would be needed to turn this seasonably swampy ground into a functional sports area, as well as the noise produced by exuberant kids and parents, would destroy any current habitat.

Don't get me wrong. I love soccer, and while I don't care too much for baseball, I can understand why others do. And it is not even that I am worried about the noise every weekend morning that will wake up sleeping residents, or the very real possibility of a ball of some kind escaping the sports field and breaking personal property (although that is probably a concern to some residents).

I am just concerned that by going through with this plan, one of the few remaining special places for my community will be destroyed. We really, really worked hard here and we all love our gardens for the vegetables they produce, the community they provide, and the peace of mind they give us.

It is unfortunate that as a society, we continue to destroy the land we need to survive both physically and emotionally.

FACILITIES REPAIR MEASURE TO BE DECIDED BY UNCOUNTED BALLOTS

WHEN WAS THE ELECTION?



"WAS" IS NOT WAS. WAS IS "IS." WHEN WILL "IT" BE "WAS"? I CAN'T SAY WHEN "IT" WILL BE "WAS" BUT I KNOW IT WON'T BE "IS" UNTIL "WAS" IS "WAS."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to creek's friends

In a stunning victory for creek-lovers everywhere, Honda of El Cerrito has removed its inventory of cars parked without a permit for over a year alongside the Baxter Creek branch south of Angelo's Delicatessen in Richmond.

For the past year, Friends of Baxter Creek worked tirelessly to persuade Richmond to impose mitigation measures on Honda for its illegal use of the property.

Early this year, property owners Adachi Associates accused the Richmond Planning Commission of acting "unreasonably and contrary to law" in imposing these minimal environmental mitigation measures, some as simple as removing the barbed wire that lines a chain-link fence surrounding the area.

But on Feb. 22, the City Council unanimously denied Adachi's appeal of these mitigation measures and required that Honda comply with them within 30 days or remove its cars from the site.

Last week, Honda threw in the towel and moved its cars from Richmond to El Cerrito, where they're now parked on the former El Cerrito Lumber site. The car dealership is in the process of moving its San Pablo Avenue facility two blocks south to the former Food Bowl lot.

We're still waiting for the property owners to remove the chain-link fence from the area where Honda parked its cars. But kudos go out to all FOBers who helped protect Baxter Creek in this area!

For photos of Windrush School sixth-graders at the Community/Baxter Creek Cleanup on March 3, check out fun for kids, photo album, and wildlife pages at <http://www.creativeifferences.com/baxtercreek>.

For breaking news on the campaign to halt construction of Seacilf Estates in Richmond's Brickyard Landing, check out our Action Alerts page at <http://www.creativeifferences.com/baxtercreek/actionalerts>

Maryann Abernethy
and Lisa Viani,
co-founders,
Friends of Baxter Creek

'Mattress' a production worth seeing

I want to encourage your readers, especially those with young children, to come and see the Albany High School production of the musical "Once Upon a Mattress." The show has three more performances this weekend: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., and Sunday, 5 p.m. The tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and may be reserved by calling 559-6550, ext. 6588.

The musical is based upon the fairytale "The Princess and the Pea" and was a Broadway vehicle for Carol Burnett in the 1960s. The music was written by Mary Rodgers, daughter of Richard Rodgers.

The production values in the Albany High show are wonderful! There is a riot of color on stage. There are beautiful sets and costumes, great singing and dancing, and an amazing amount of young talent. The high school theatre program needs and deserves your sponsorship.

Rick Robinson
Albany High School parent

Bus system prudent use of Measure C funds

I was delighted to read in The Journal that the city of El Cerrito is exploring using Measure C funds for a shuttle bus system instead of a parking garage to serve BART patrons.

Anyone who commutes any distance in the Bay Area knows that an effective public transit system is the most important change we must achieve here in order to preserve our quality of life for the future.

If every community along the BART system could produce a well-planned connecting system, the Bay Area would have an efficient public transit system. Such an extended network of public transit feeding into the BART system could generate enough additional ridership on BART to help pay for improving that main artery of the system.

A parking garage is limited in use to the number of parking spaces it houses and can only be improved with another or a larger parking garage. A bus-link system can be modified and expanded by affordable increments over time based on need.

I applaud the wisdom behind this alternate course of action. I urge our city's leaders to pursue with diligence a public transit network rather than a parking garage!

Keith C. Bupp

Neighborly parking solution is possible

BART commuters from the suburbs deserve our sympathy.

We locals from just beyond the walking distance grab the available BART parking spots, while commuters from afar have to park blocks away. Many of us could easily walk downhill to the BART station in the morning, but the walk up the hill at the end of the day is not nearly as appealing.

If we had to pay to park at BART, and if there were a free, local shuttle bus serving our neighborhoods, we would gladly leave our cars resting in our driveways. We'd reserve the BART spaces for commuters. This solution would not only clear out the parking spaces, but help to clear the air by cutting down on short driving trips, which are the worst polluters.

It benefits the commuters from the suburbs and us locals for El Cerrito to use available transit funds to finance shuttle buses. Buses can create more BART parking than large garages, are more flexible, and a whole lot cheaper.

Each new space in a BART garage would cost taxpayers about \$10 a day, while shuttle bus seats can cost a fraction of that. Commuters from farther-out suburbs also deserve shuttle bus service and satellite parking, but frequent and short bus trips are substantially more cost effective in freeing up parking than longer hauls. So we should concentrate on close-in shuttles first.

Can such a neighborly and obvious solution become clear to the Contra Costa Transportation Agency? So far, agency staff has demonstrated a fondness for pouring new concrete and cutting ribbons. They tried to strong-arm our pro-shuttle bus City Council and our pro-shuttle bus BART directors.

The silver lining in a transportation crisis such

as this is that it promotes clarity of priorities. As congestion worsens, assorted agency politicians need to rethink their support of special-interest groups centered around construction.

We will spend our Measure C funds based on our needs in the most cost-effective way possible, or we will focus our energies to change the way the Transportation Agency runs. This will clarify the issue once and for all.

The political process churns up a lot of nonsense, but only to weed it out in the long run.
Peter Loubal
El Cerrito

Hillside a wonderful refuge for wildlife

The El Cerrito hillside natural area is home to many forms of wildlife.

First, many thanks to the El Cerrito Fire Department for using good judgment in preserving many beautiful wild flowers when cutting and burning fire fuel brush and grass that are dangerous to houses in Cerrito. Blue Lupin for example blooms from January into June. They have been carefully spared in several locations.

A beautiful huge white crane was a visitor in mid-March in the ponds in Arlington Park. The crane was more than 6 feet tall with a beak about 2 feet long. The next day showed that it had moved on to unknown destinations.

For the first time in 60 years we saw a fox on King Court adjacent to the Hillside Natural Area. As usual in recent years the most prolific animals are the gophers that number in the thousands. Many kinds of birds are flocking in the area, many eating the red berries on the pyracantha and cotoneaster.

Fifty years ago there were quail living in the Hillside Park area. I saw a coyote walking in the middle of King Court heading for the park. We heard them frequently in the 1980s. At that time there were also gopher snakes and other reptiles including lizards living there.

Red-tailed hawks nest in the area and fly overhead frequently. Deer reside in the park and feed in nearby yards. The deer population is decreasing. A few years ago I saw seven deer in my neighbor's yard. This year I see four deer in the yard. People either love or hate deer.

Deer are beautiful, graceful with big ears and eyes, often photographed and admired.

On the other hand they have enormous appetites for nearly all flowers, leaves, buds, and shoots. They eat very little grass. It is easier to list flowers they do not like to eat. Lupines, named by sheep herders thousands of years ago as wolf plants in Latin, because they killed sheep, dahlias although they spit them out. Roses they love, apples they crave! Deer can jump a six-foot fence with ease.

The U.S. Forest Service tested and found that the best fence was one with fairly large holes placed horizontally 12-18 inches above the ground. It acts like a cattle guard in a road. I have tested these and found them to be effective.

Deer are not afraid of dogs or people. They have attacked dogs and a buck chased one dog and my neighbor into his house. Nearly all repellents are ineffective.

Deer eat vegetables including peas, tomatoes, beans. Raccoons eat corn when they are ripe. Other residents are possum, raccoon and skunks.

George L. Gates
El Cerrito

We want to hear from you

The Journal wants to hear from its readers. All letters must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Journal or its staff members. E-mail letters to journal@cctimes.com or write to P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, CA. 94530.

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

speaker, Mary Tharpe, marriage and family therapist, at batharpe@aol.com

Cornell Elementary School

SCRIP sales: Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip. Call 800-400-7878. Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school. Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCRIP for sale Wednesday and Friday, 8:15-8:45 a.m., and Wednesday after school.

Marin Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Monday and Friday mornings before school, at early and late-bird times. Orders can be placed in office at any time. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip. Call 1-800-400-7878. Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school. Natural Grocery and Albertson's scrip may be purchased at school.

Reminder: Please remember to save and turn in General Mills boxes for education to office.

March 16, site council meeting

Ocean View Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Wednesday mornings before school on playground; ask for Kim Denton. SCRIP can also be ordered from office. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip. Call 800-400-7878. Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school.

We are now selling paper scrip from Ranch 99 Market.

Recycle used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library soon.

AUSD Board of Education

March 21, special meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room. Topics: Use of Albany Pool, District Goals and Development.

March 22, special meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room. Topic: parcel tax, held March 28; regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room.

AUSD Calendar

Kindergarten Registration: Call Elementary School closest to your residence

City of Albany

City Traffic Management Plan now available in the Community Development Dept., City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled for public comment.

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

East Bay Neighborhood Links launches south Richmond computer training center

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

On March 14, just four months after Vice President Al Gore announced a major grant to East Bay Neighborhood Links, the collaborative launched a key site for the provision of after school programs and community technology access in Richmond.

Located at the Coronado YMCA, the lab builds on existing programs developed with the assistance of the UC Links program, United Way, and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Initially, the lab will be used as an integral component of the Coronado YMCA's after school programs. Located immediately across the street from Coronado Elementary School in Richmond, the aim of these programs will be to complement and reinforce classroom curriculum.

Speaking to parents and community members at a celebration marking the launch of the lab last Tuesday, Principal Linda Jackson said, "The YMCA is like the north campus of Coronado Elementary School. We are really proud to be part of this effort and I know it will produce great things

for our children." Jackson also announced that the YMCA will utilize the school's multi-purpose room to further expand the after school program.

UC Links, a network of after school programs supported by the University of California, will provide technical support to these activities. In the UC Links program, older and younger children learn together in an informal, playful atmosphere, exploring a variety of educational software and internet-based resources.

Don Lau, executive director of the West Contra Costa YMCA said, "We are very excited to be able to launch the lab at this time especially with the support of our partners in East Bay Neighborhood Links. It is essential that the children we serve at the Coronado YMCA participate in these kinds of activities. Otherwise, they are destined

to increasingly fall further and further behind at school."

The Coronado YMCA has been working with a small group of students in partnership with the UC Links program of the University of California. UC students work at the YMCA as tutors and mentors and help introduce the elementary school age students to various computer resources.

Lori Roberts, youth activities coordinator at the Coronado YMCA, said, "Opening of the new lab at the YMCA will allow us to expand these activities to many more students. Essentially, this program will become the framework for our whole after school program."

Technical support for the installation and expansion of the Coronado YMCA computer lab was provided by EBNL member Urban VOICE.

East Bay Neighborhood Links combines the community organizing capabilities of the YMCA of the East Bay and Ecumenical Association for Housing (EAH) with the technical expertise of the University of California, and the job training and placement abilities of Urban VOICE, Compu-Train, and Street Tech.

ties of Urban VOICE, Compu-Train, and Street Tech.

School Board and Richmond City Council Meet

On Tuesday, March 14 the WC-CUSD School Board and Richmond City Council met in joint session to follow-up on joint project and look to future collaborative efforts.

The council and board discussed the status of the new Richmond middle school, law enforcement collaboration, and other partnerships.

Mayor Corbin noted that, "All of our city goals are in some way related to a strong public education system." Among topics discussed was active development of after school activities at all school sites. A joint committee was formed composed of myself, board member Charles Ramsey, Richmond City Council members Alex Evans, Gary, Bell and Richard Griffen. The committee was charged with development of a plan to bring back to both bodies looking at rapid development

See WATCH, Page A11

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

■ "The Thespians" March 17, 18 at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater

■ Incoming ninth-grade conferences. Saturday, March 18, 9-11:30 a.m., last names starting A-L; 1-3:30 p.m., last names starting M-Z; or Wednesday, March 22, 6-8:30 p.m., last names starting A-L; and Wednesday, March 29, 6-8:30 p.m., last names starting M-Z. Meant for students identified by their middle school as attending ECHS in the fall.

Parents and students may come either day. Families will review handouts, course description bulletins, and meet with a counselor.

■ Senior's proficiency makeup. March 20-21, 8:30-11:30 a.m., ECHS

Cafeteria. Seniors lacking reading, language or math test must be present for the final make-up exams.

■ Poetry Reading. Friday, March 24, 7 p.m., in the Little Theater Poetry Reading Club, contact Mr. Holland.

■ Senior Car Wash is Sunday, March 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Chevron on Solano and Colusa in Berkeley.

■ Student Blood Drive is Wednesday, March 29, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Red Cross Support Bank. Girl's Gym

■ Spring Concert I. Thursday, March 30, 7:30 p.m. Jazz Ensemble and Concert Choir.

SAT Test Calendar

Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., April 8, May 6, June 3.

See the SAT Registration Bulletin or online at www.collegeboard.org for the Registration Form, fees, and details on how to register.

On exam days, students may stand-by with their money and ID (required)

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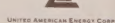
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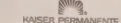
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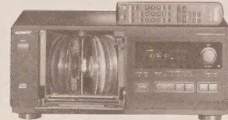


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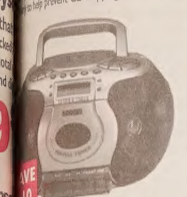
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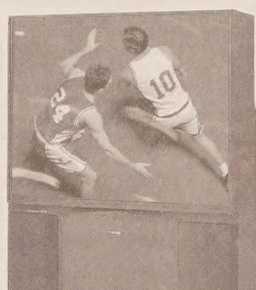


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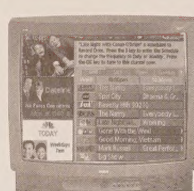
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A Gray day for the local judiciary

Local lawyers are shaking their heads over the odd behavior of Superior Court Judge Ron Greenberg, who was re-elected to the bench last week.

Greenberg filed for re-election last December, which had the practical effect of scaring off all other contenders because no lawyer in his or her right mind wants to run against a sitting judge. (What if you lose and then have to try a case in his courtroom?)

Since he was unopposed, the registrar didn't even bother putting the office on the ballot, and Greenberg was automatically re-elected on March 7.

Trouble is, on March 6, the day before the election, he suddenly handed in his resignation. I can't help wondering: If he didn't want the job anymore, why didn't he say so in December?

There were plenty of eminently qualified candidates who could have run for the office and filled it with great distinction. (Court Commissioners Ken Norman and Beverly Daniels Greenberg are two names that come immediately to mind.)

But now, because Greenberg has been re-elected, the rules have changed. According to the law, the vacancy will now be filled by Gov. Gray Davis—the same man who declared two weeks ago that all his judicial appointees had better rule exactly the way he wants them to or else resign. In effect, Greenberg's ill-timed bug-out has robbed us of the choice and given it to Sacramento.

And there's another problem: Davis is notoriously slow about getting around to making judicial appointments. We already have two local judicial vacancies that have remained unfilled for almost a year. And now, thanks to Judge Greenberg, we have three.

Thanks a lot, Your Honor!

Meanwhile, the most interesting race in last Tuesday's election—



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

and the one future historians will look back on with the greatest interest—wasn't McCain vs. Bush, or Bradley vs. Gore, or even the state propositions.

No, it was one that the media paid absolutely no attention to: the obscure contest for the Alameda County Republican Central Committee.

Twelve years ago, the Republican Central Committee was taken over by the extreme radical religious right.

How right wing are these guys? Well, they put an NRA sticker in the window of the Central Committee headquarters and handed out Pat Buchanan bumper stickers at the Alameda County Fair. When Sheriff Charley Plummer, the most popular Republican to come along in Alameda County since Earl Warren, appeared before their group, he was greeted with boos and hisses.

And when it came to putting an African-American on their slate of candidates for Central Committee in this year's election, they chose a guy named Marion Harper, who is a member of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam. These guys are so far right, they're left!

Anyway, last Tuesday they lost control of the Central Committee to a slate of moderates and conservatives led by Albany Mayor Jon Ely and Oakland Park and Rec Commissioner Anne Woodell, who took 21 of the 30 seats.

Now, I can hear you asking: Why should I, a Democrat, care what happens in the GOP? I mean, if they get rid of the wing nuts, they might just win a few elections around here—which, as a good Democrat, I'd hate to see.

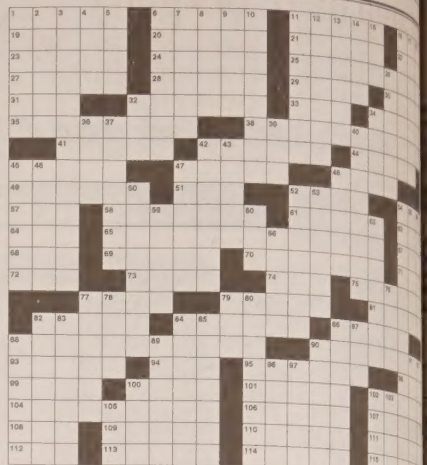
The answer, of course, is that for our system to work we need two viable political parties. In the long run, it isn't good for either the Democratic party or our democracy at large to have one-party rule, even if it's the party I happen to agree with.

When I was a kid, things were exactly the opposite in this county: It was the Republicans who had a stranglehold on power. It wasn't healthy then, and it isn't healthy now. Lord Acton was right: Power corrupts, and absolute power cor-

WEARING O' THE GREEN

By ELIZABETH C. GORSKI / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Shook, maybe | 1 Ohio River tributary |
| 6 Quarrel | 2 Artemis's twin |
| 11 Animal that has kittens | 3 "Witness" co-star |
| 16 Literate or poetic | 4 — Stanley Gardner |
| 19 Impersonations | 5 Actress |
| 20 Sky box locale | 6 Runway moves |
| 21 Fish may be kept in it | |
| 22 Lovey | |
| 23 Soave — | |
| 24 Lethargy | |
| 25 1989 Al Pacino movie | |
| 27 Trumpeter Red | |
| 28 Gang types | |
| 29 Director | |
| 30 "Understood!" | |
| 31 Roguish | |
| 32 Grandchild of Japanese immigrants | |
| 33 Tony-winning | |
| 34 13th-century invader | |
| 35 People to hang out with | |
| 36 Former U.S. Open site | |
| 41 Stable sounds | |
| 42 Went to the top | |
| 43 Relieves | |
| 44 Like some pond life | |
| 47 Bygone New York newspaper | |
| 48 Brave | |
| 49 Sitting room? | |
| 51 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" girl | |
| 52 "Shoulda, woulda, coulda" thinker | |
| 54 Soccer star | |
| 57 Chat room abbr. | |
| 58 Goes (for) | |
| 61 Dark | |
| 63 Passbook entry: Abbr. | |
| 64 N.H.L. conference div. | |
| 65 It's good when they're extended | |
| 67 Broadcasting init., since 1970 | |
| 68 Number after cinque | |
| 69 Cause of some skids | |
| 70 Get rid of | |
| 71 Calendar abbr. | |
| 72 Quick scores? | |
| 73 "Dear" ones | |
| 74 Many a state name in D.C. | |
| 75 Dyes | |
| 77 Muffin ingredient | |
| 79 Sky boxes, perhaps | |
| 81 It's for the birds | |
| 82 Thin as — | |
| 84 Keyboard key | |
| 86 Arrived | |
| 88 Wizard's home | |
| 90 Like some covers | |
| 93 Desires | |
| 94 Mythical bird | |
| 95 Hard roll? | |
| 98 "— Had It" (1959 hit) | |
| 99 D.C. regulators | |
| 100 "— Breckinridge" | |
| 101 Flutist's embellishment | |
| 102 Gluts | |
| 104 Numskulls | |
| 106 Rugged ridge | |
| 107 Trust fund babies, often | |
| 108 Titus, e.g.: | |
| 109 Cuts corners? | |
| 110 Something to read word for word? | |
| 111 Began | |
| 112 River to the Irish Sea | |
| 113 Certain | |
| 114 They can hold water | |
| 115 Practices | |
| 7 Sings "Rock-a-Bye Baby" | |
| 8 Tow truck attachments | |
| 9 It's positive | |
| 10 Wagner's final work | |
| 11 Eclipse | |
| 12 Like stainproof fabric | |
| 13 They're fit for a princess | |
| 14 Organic compound | |
| 15 One who cries foul? | |
| 16 Last Supper guest | |
| 17 Lets on | |
| 18 Bull market necessities? | |
| 26 Be a go-between | |
| 32 Pacifier | |
| 34 Where, to a whaler? | |
| 36 Carrier at J.F.K. | |
| 37 Matadors' duds | |
| 39 Run-of-the-mill: Abbr. | |
| 40 Most overcome | |
| 42 Reds | |
| 43 Big name in brushwork | |
| 45 "Finally!" | |
| 46 Made | |
| 47 "ER" doctor played by Laura Innes | |
| 48 Where cows are sacred | |



- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 50 Is a blabbermouth | 66 Fall off | 83 Mold anew | 92 Grand |
| 52 Steamroll | 76 "— cannot be!" | 84 Harsh critic | 96 Toxic |
| 53 Sam and Ben | 77 Something screwdrivers can help make | 85 "Three Musicians" artist | 97 Fossil fuel |
| 54 There's no use in this | 78 Small estuaries | 86 They're boring | 98 Kind of |
| 55 Does data work | 79 Crazy | 87 "— quit!" | 100 Kind of |
| 56 Napping | 80 Negative reaction | 88 Skipped out, in a way | 102 Bygone |
| 59 Marking device | 82 1998 song by Rebecca Blake | 89 Common refrigerator | 103 Skid |
| 60 Iberian Mrs. | | 90 Bumble | 104 |
| 62 Marathon mementos | | 91 Loath | 105 |

rupts absolutely. (Are you listening, Jerry Brown?)

That Republican stranglehold was finally broken by a small group of dedicated liberals like John George, John Sutter, Ron Delums, Mary Moore and Howard Jewel, who rebuilt the Democratic party from the ground up and laid the groundwork for the Democratic ascendancy that exists today.

Today, Ely, Woodell & Co. are in the same boat. Tuesday's election was a turning point, and I wish them well in rebuilding the party in a true conservative (as opposed to radical) image.

If losing an election now and then is the price I have to pay for having two responsible parties, I'll gladly pay it.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not one of those who, like Jesse Ventura, think religion has no place in politics. If that were true, you'd have to disqualify Martin Luther King Jr.,

Mahatma Gandhi, Desmond Tutu, Dorothy Day, Cesar Chavez, the Berrigan brothers, and practically all the early Abolitionists.

My objection is when righteousness turns into self-righteousness, when humility gives way to hubris, when people forget Jesus' admonition to "Judge not, lest ye be judged." Pat Robertson may think he's like Joan of Arc, but he reminds me more of Peter Cauchon, the bishop of Beauvais who presided over the trial that condemned St. Joan to the stake.

One churchman I admire a lot is John Cummins, the Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Oakland (which takes in all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties).

For some time, I've been dismayed by the reaction of much of the American Catholic hierarchy to charges of sexual abuse by priests. All too often, they've reacted defensively, seeming to care more

See SNAPP, Page A9

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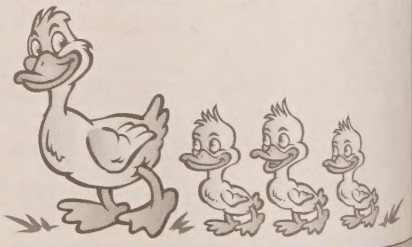
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El Cerrito warns of wave of auto theft, burglary

EL CERRITO—The Police Department's investigations Division is issuing a warning about what it calls a wave of automobile theft and burglary in recent weeks.

The department says it is investigating about 40 auto theft cases since the beginning of February.

Among the most frequently taken vehicles have been Toyota Camrys, and Toyota vans, the department says in its warning, adding that both makes are also frequent targets for burglaries as well.

The department encourages residents to lock their vehicles and secure them with after market devices or alarms. It also advises Neighborhood Watch groups to continue to watch out for and report suspicious people to the department.

The most frequently taken vehicles are Toyota Camrys and Toyota vans.

idents to lock their vehicles and secure them with after market devices or alarms. It also advises Neighborhood Watch groups to continue to watch out for and report suspicious people to the department.

Community invited to ECHS Casino Night

The Friends of El Cerrito High School invite the community to celebrate our students by joining them from 7 to 11 p.m. for the seventh Annual ECHS Casino Night on April 14. The donation is \$25 per person or \$40 for two.

The Friends of El Cerrito High School work to increase community, alumni, and parent involvement in the school.

While the West Contra Costa School District continues to improve, the group says community-wide support for the district at large and El Cerrito High School in particular is essential to strengthen the progress and provide encouragement to the

school and students.

Last year the Friends of ECHS awarded six scholarships to deserving graduating seniors and contributed toward the purchase of a new copier for the main office at ECHS.

The friends are raising money for graduating senior scholarships again this year. In addition, their goal this year is to add a new electronic message sign for the front of the school, similar to the one promoting the students and activities of Kennedy High School.

The estimated cost falls between \$20,000 and \$30,000. This electronic message sign will be a primary

method of informing students, parents, and the community of important school events and will link the community together.

At Casino Night the locally based band, "Rhythm Review" will again provide music throughout the evening.

Professionals run the casino tables; scrip is used at the gaming tables, and instruction will be provided for non-gamblers so that everyone can have fun. You will enjoy hors

d'oeuvres and many door prizes.

Local business and individuals help underwrite the event as well as donate directly to the group's goals. Your help is needed too. Come to Casino Night and celebrate with us or call to donate to our fund. In addition, businesses can sponsor at casino table during the event for \$200.

Details: Jim Martin, 654-4444 or beach127@aol.com

OBITUARIES

Margaret S. Nelson

Margaret S. "Peggy" Nelson died March 15 in El Cerrito, her home for 47 years. Mrs. Nelson was born July 20, 1927, in Alameda.

She graduated from UC Berkeley in 1948. She was a homemaker for many years and was involved in a number of activities.

She continued her relationship with the Berkeley Chapter of Alpha Phi Sorority and was an active member of the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club. An avid bridge player, she played in charity bridge tournaments for both Guide Dogs for the Blind and Children's Hospital in Oakland.

She loved to garden and made preserves, jams and the "worlds best apple pies" from her harvest.

She is survived by her husband, Walter "Ted" Nelson of El Cerrito; children Edmund Nelson of Salt Lake City, Utah; Lorraine Nelson

of Merced, Elizabeth Nelson of Duluth, Minn., Patricia Nelson Ellsworth of Canoga Park, and Sarah Nelson of Berkeley; her sister Betty Murphy of Kentfield; and 10 grand children.

There will be a memorial service on March 24, 2:30 p.m., at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., in El Cerrito.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a donation to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Children's Hospital in Oakland, or a charity of your choice.

Agnes A. Forsell

Agnes Forsell, age 90, died March 5, in her home at 647 Everett St. in El Cerrito after a brief struggle with cancer.

Agnes was the eldest child of Swedish immigrants Carl and Esther Anderson, who moved to El Cerrito in 1913 when the Pullman rail company relocated from Denver.

She remained in the El Cerrito area except for a long visit to Munk-

fors, Sweden, and several years in Antioch when her children were young.

Agnes, the first in her family to go to college, graduated from UC Berkeley in 1931 and completed graduate work in 1932.

Agnes taught English at Antioch High School and worked in the Antioch and El Cerrito libraries. One of her many interests was teaching English to the foreign born, work she continued after retirement.

She worked actively in the League of Women Voters and other community organizations, and remained concerned with civic affairs until her death.

Agnes was interested in history, philosophy and poetry. She wrote poetry and loved gardening and children.

She is survived by children Laurel Hammond with husband Charles, Malcolm Forsell with wife Marilyn, and Ellen Forsell; by sisters Pearl McAndrews, June Whitaker with Bob, and Carol Myhre with Charley; by sister-in-law Luella Anderson; by grandchild-

dren Lisa Hammond, Todd Hammond with Kristina, Andrew Forsell with Rick, and Matt Forsell with Tammy; by great-grandchildren Kory, Korin, Adam Forsell and Mia, Nils, and Emma Hammond; by sisters-in-law Norma Oier and Mildred "Billy" Martens; and by many nieces and nephews who were very important to her. Agnes kept many dear friends in her thoughts to the end.

The family wishes to thank her neighbor, Anita Sorenson, for help in the last weeks of Agnes' life.

Agnes was preceded in death by her husband Warner; daughter Beth; brothers Bob and Carl Anderson; brothers-in-law Martin McAndrews and Ender Forsell; and sister-in-law Elina Pawson.

The family will make contributions in her memory to the United Nations Children's Fund or to the American Cancer Society.

At her request, no formal services will be held.

Snapp

ON PAGE A8

the abuser than his victims. Bishop Cummins.

Five years ago, he issued a strict order ordering in no uncertain terms that all allegations of sexual abuse by priests be taken seriously and that the prime concern be for the victim, not the priest, and that the abuser not be allowed to resume any priestly duties unless he's undergone treatment first.

But now he's going even further. Next Saturday, March 25, in an extraordinary and unprecedented gesture, Bishop Cummins will publicly apologize to victims of priestly sexual abuse and ask their forgiveness.

"Even when the signs were there, we did not recognize them," the Bishop will say. "We pray for God's mercy and forgiveness and ask for the grace to amend our lives."

Any person who has suffered such abuse, either as a child or adult, is invited to attend. This "Service of Apology and Reconciliation" will be held at Leona Lodge in Oakland, rather than a church because, as diocesan chancellor Sister Barbara Flannery explains, "many of the survivors cannot enter a church without experiencing emotional distress."

Bishop Cummins may not be Jewish, but take it from one who is: This guy is a real mensch. Happy St. Patrick's Day, Bishop.

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Pattis' Auto Care In Berkeley

The term "Green Business" has come to the forefront recently for auto shops in the East Bay and Pattis' Auto Care is clearly the forerunner in this environmentally sound trend.

This past week, owner Patricia Crichtfield received her "Green Business" certification from the Alameda Green Business Program. The process involves an industry specific checklist that is evaluated over an 18 month period. The criteria is stringent. It includes compliance with environmental regulations; pollution prevention; energy and water conservation; waste reduction and responsible recycling.

To be a Green Business is an honor," says Patti. "We are chemical free! To be a 'dry shop' means we use no solvents," she says. "We clean up without buckets, hoses or absorbents. Spills are cleaned up immediately and placed in recyclable containers."

After nearly 20 years in the auto

repair business, Patti knows that customer service matters just as much as the car brought in to be serviced. "I offer my experience as well as the experience of the mechanics I employ," she says. "But the customer is the most important person to me."

Auto Repairs can be costly, and there is the ever-present customer fear of lacking the skills to be "Car Smart" when it involves their transportation lifeline. Patti is aware of this, and attempts to put herself in your shoes. "Having your car broken down is bad enough," she says. "Auto repair in most cases means spending a lot of money. I explain the problems to my customers. I want everyone to leave as a happy client with a happy car."

Patti's Auto Care works on Hondas, Acura's, Toyotas, Nissans and Mazdas. The work done here includes brakes, clutches, transmission rebuilds, complete factory service and engine work. The level of

BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

customer service is well rooted in a philosophy you may not find at other auto repair shops.

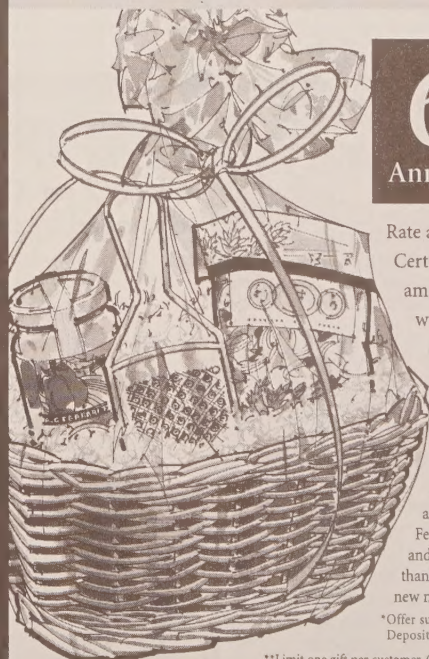
Patti is looking forward to servicing her clients with quality auto repair for the next twenty years. When you pull in for repairs, you can not only be assured of being "Green Certified"... you will be "Patricia Certified."

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Dog banished by BART

By Tom Lochner

EL CERRITO — Where Lucy once sat, lazily eyeing BART commuters as they hustled by, there is now just the green tennis ball she liked to chew on. Lucy is not dead, although she suffers from a fatal disease that could claim her any time. The 5-year-old shar-pei mix who came every weekday morning to work a newsstand with her owner, Rick Martin, now stays in Martin's pickup truck out in the parking lot.

Last month, Lucy became canine non grata in the El Cerrito station.

"BART has a policy of no animals in stations," said Nora Yee, from the agency's transportation department. "I'm just enforcing the policy."

But that enforcement, and Lucy's conspicuous absence after about a year at the station, doesn't sit well with commuters who have started a petition drive to bring her back inside.

"The dog is really sweet and quiet and just hangs out here. I like having the dog here," said Donna Bodine of Albany.

"It's kind of a joy for some of us," said Judy Wheardon of El Cerrito.

Commuters last week began circulating a petition to BART. The dog "has all her shots," it reads. "She is sweet and obedient. It is unreasonable for her to be banished from the station. She is no more obtrusive than a seeing-eye dog or other dog companions."

Yee has not wavered, saying the issue is not the dog's behavior, but rules. According to the contract between BART and the newsstand concessionaire, the station vendor must abide by BART policy. Yee said that when she learned of the dog, she had no choice.

"If you were to bring a child to work, would your co-worker turn you in or not?" Yee asked rhetorically. "If you had a dog in your apartment, and a maintenance manager saw your dog, would he turn you in?"

The beginning of the end of Lucy's welcome at the station came in November. Yee made several demands to Martin and the concessionaire, the San Francisco Newspaper Agency, to keep the dog out of the station.

"All of a sudden there's a lady started raising hell that dogs weren't allowed," said Martin, 53, of Alameda, who is legally disabled as a result of

Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome, a progressive disease of the nervous system.

Martin says commuters told him they had heard from BART officials that Lucy constitutes a health hazard. BART station agent Larry Ratliff and ground worker Gary Hodge said they knew of no complaints about the dog, whose disease is not contagious.

"That dog has not so much barked at anybody, growled or showed her teeth or anything," said Ratliff.

Yee said she has confronted a station agent about allowing the dog inside and complained to the agent's union steward.

Meanwhile, Martin, who was diagnosed in 1998 and now receives full-disability Social Security checks, is thinking of declaring Lucy a "service dog" under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which could force BART to make room for Lucy.

RSDS is characterized by painful joints in the hands and feet, loss of mobility and atrophy of limbs. Millions of people in the United States suffer from some level of the disease, according to the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association of America.

Title III of the ADA defines a service animal as one "individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability."

Martin figures Lucy fits the bill.

"She picks up stuff for me," he said.

What constitutes training is less important than what kind of service an animal provides, said Ken Stein of the Berkeley-based Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, which operates a federally funded ADA hotline.

Stein said a case such as Martin's fall into a "gray area." A dog trained to pick up newspapers might be considered a service dog, Stein said. On the other hand, "If the animal is just providing comfort," then he is not protected," said Stein.

Meanwhile, Lucy is faced with her own medical issues, Martin said. Amyloidosis, from which Lucy suffers, is characterized by protein deposits in the body that eventually compress adjacent cells and cause internal organs to fail.

Most shar-peis with the disease do not live beyond 5 years — Lucy's age.

Asbestos

FROM PAGE A1

said. "It's not a problem as long as it's not fry-able, or as long as the content isn't released into the air."

As for the removal process itself, district construction project manager Rich Vila maintains there is no reason to panic if workers take all the proper precautions.

"It's OK to do it over spring break because there's no exposure to humans at the time. The air will be sampled before kids are allowed back in," he said.

Gail Bateson, also with the labor occupational health program at UC Berkeley, dismissed concerns that a week is not enough time to get rid of the asbestos.

"Time isn't the most important thing. How the asbestos is monitored is," she said.

Throughout the abatement procedure, Noel will sample air quality in the Fine Arts building. He is the same toxicologist who monitored air in the AMS gym.

Samples will be analyzed with transmission electron microscopy, "the only method that will tell you if fibers are asbestos," Noel said. Results are expected to be available within 12 to 24 hours of testing. All testing must be completed by Saturday, April 22, which coincides with Earth Day.

"That way if there's a problem, we have Sunday to get it cleaned up," Noel said.

The presence of asbestos, once a widely used material in older public buildings, often raises concerns.

"Asbestos can cause the crippling respiratory disease asbestosis as well as lung cancer," said Donna Iverson, a librarian at UC-Berkeley's labor occupational health program.

According to environmental consultant Mike Noel, a formal asbestos report will be ready sometime next week. In the meantime, questions about but concrete answers are few and far between, even around when it was determined the building contained asbestos.

Mills said asbestos in the flooring and wiring was "recently discovered," anywhere from "four to eight weeks ago." Vila offered a time frame dating back nearly a decade, saying Albany High's asbestos report first came out in the early '90s.

In addition, each school district is required by law to designate a person in charge of handling asbestos-related inquiries, said Northern California's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) toxic program officer Ricardo Cruz. Although a copy of a asbestos management plan is supposed to be available at each school site, the report for Albany High School was not produced for public inspection at press time. Repeated phone calls to the district were not returned.

"I haven't seen it myself," said toxicologist Noel.

"I don't want to say anything except it should be there. It's required," Noel said.

Asbestos abatement work will be done by a subcontractor yet to be selected.

"We haven't found one yet," Noel said. "I will be contacting a couple companies that I know will be reliable and who will do good work. We'll be selecting the best contractor for the best price."

District officials do not yet know what the removal work will cost.

Even for the Albany High faculty, answers are hard to come by.

"I understand this building will be closed over spring break and no one is going to be allowed in," AHS choral instructor Joan Sextro said.

"We haven't been told a whole lot." Noel did, however, test the stage wires at Sextro's request.

"The kids in the lighting crew are around them all the time," Sextro said. "It's not right."

Noel estimated that 90 percent of the wiring sheath contains asbestos. "I was surprised at the amount of asbestos, not that there was asbestos," he said.

Wiring on the Little Theater stage lighting was supposed to be shrink-wrapped Monday night as a precautionary step. Shrink-wrapping involves applying heat to a plastic material that then prevents asbestos from flaking off. This routine procedure was postponed indefinitely because the lights are currently being used for the high school spring musical.

All lighting will be removed from the Little Theater after the show closes Sunday night. There are tentative discussions about renting stage lights but nothing has been determined.

Accelerated renovation schedule

According to Vila, the original plan was to begin the modernization of the Fine Arts building this summer. Modernization has since been bumped up a month with exterior work beginning May 1. Construction will also include building an elevator shaft and a bridge

to connect the Fine Arts building with the new facility.

Vinyl composition will replace the flooring in choir room 22 and parts of art room 18. The first- and second-floor corridors of the Fine Arts building will be repaved with bare concrete. Tiling for the hallways will be finished over the summer.

"None of this material is airborne so there's nothing to cause a problem," Vila said. "The floor tiles and adhesives are as old as the buildings, which were built in the mid- to late-'60s. They're over 30 years old."

Prior to environmental regulation, asbestos was commonly used as an insulator. Its heat and fire resistant qualities make tiles more durable, Iverson said.

But the tiles are not the only durable things at Albany High.

Aside from the expected concern over finding asbestos in the Fine Arts building, the issue also revisits Albany High's infamous battle over lockers and murals.

"There's the locker situation again, how we're going to face it during and after. That's why it's got to be done at a strategic pace. We don't want to get into the situation that we got into last year," Mills said, alluding to the student petitions and protests at the district office. Students were outraged when they discovered a row of gray lockers bolted over murals painted by former students.

According to Francisco Galindo, at least half of the lockers are currently used by students.

"We were hoping to get the lockers because we were the murals but we can't get the lockers at this time."

To avoid another episode, rent plan is to leave the lockers but stop the Fine Arts building will be until the summer.

But according to Cruz, he did not receive any notification of the abatement procedures at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Jamie Kendall, supervisor in the BAAQMD, said enforcement division officials "haven't decided if they're going to do any asbestos abatement work. It's very stringent federal regulations schools with asbestos."

Although "schools are to a higher standard," asbestos-wrapped wires and tiles are "not normally regulated," said Kendall.

In the event that more removal procedures are required, BAAQMD should be notified 10 working days in advance.

Manager

FROM PAGE A1

ements of what the person who fills the position has to do," said Councilman Larry Damon. "Once we know what that person has to do, then we're positioned to get the right person."

The council voted not to approve the consultant agreement and decided instead to "move with speed to form the Economic Development Board" and work with the new board to develop the manager's job description and hiring process.

Honda

FROM PAGE A1

Commissioners had questions about the plans, ranging from landscaping to traffic flow to sign height and lighting intensity of the display lot and Honda signs.

The commission approved a variance allowing for 11.5 percent landscaping at the site rather than the 15 percent landscaping El Cerrito usually requires. Kevin Stong, architect of the plan, described the landscaping as "of a high quality and distributed mostly in front of the site where it is going to be visible to passers by."

The commission directed Stong to prepare a "photo montage" of how the 44-foot freeway sign will look from various directions. The montage will probably not be ready for the DRB meeting this week, but will be available at the March 20 City Council meeting. Originally, the Honda plan called for a 50-foot freeway-oriented sign, but it was scaled back to 44 feet.

The commission also requested the DRB review the lighting intensity of the car display lot and Honda signs.

To mitigate potential traffic problems associated with the new Honda facility, the intersection of San Pablo and Knott avenues will be signalized.

Additionally, all vehicles, including customer, employee, inventory and display vehicles, will be parked on-site and not on San Pablo Avenue or side streets. Knott Avenue will be redesigned and narrowed and a section of San Pablo Avenue that is currently a turn-out lane will be restored to sidewalk if the City Council approves.

"The current site is not large enough to accommodate their very successful business," Planning Manager Jill Keimach told the commission last week. "They sell 300 cars in a month. They have 110 employees. Both the number of vehicle sales and the number of employees are expected to increase when they locate to this new site."

Honda of El Cerrito expects to have a 10 percent increase in sales within the first six months of operation at the new location and expects to employ 160 people within a year,

The Economic Development Board approved by the council will consist of seven members who are either residents of El Cerrito or who own or operate a business here. At least two of the seven are mandated to be business owners and operators, "one of whom shall be the president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce or his/her designee," the wording states.

Among other duties, the new board will advise the City Council on economic development matters. This will include budget matters, staffing levels, policies, selection criteria, project financial feasibility and investment of resources into proposed projects.

Keimach reported. Honda's site at 11820 San Pablo Ave. is 74,000 square feet in size, less than half the space of the new site.

The Planning Commission also approved plans to store up to 150 new cars temporarily on two El Cerrito Mill and Lumber Co. sites.

The two fenced areas on Schmidt Lane between Kearney Street and the BART tracks are currently being used to store lumber.

El Cerrito Mill and Lumber Co. is being sold and the approved use permit allows the lots to be used for car storage for up to 18 months.



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Local author takes readers on Cuban baseball odyssey

By Norman Rudnick

Bay Area author Darryl Brock's new baseball novel, "Havana Heat," invites readers to return to the glorious days of early 20th century baseball as played by the team titans of the year: the New York Giants, the then potent Chicago Cubs, and Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics.

Not only that, the reader watches such legendary figures as John McGraw and Christy Mathewson perform. All this through the eyes of deaf pitcher Luther "Dummy" Taylor, a mainstay of the Giants' pitching staff from 1901 through 1908.

"Dummy" was the tag name given to all deaf players, when catchers and coaches began using the arm and finger signals that are an integral part of today's baseball ritual. Umpires also developed the modern system of signaling pitches and other plays.

Brock, like Mark Twain in "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," uses the storytelling device of the "frame" structure effectively.

The reminiscences of an aged Taylor, who has toiled lovingly for decades at teaching and coaching deaf children and now awaits his turn to speak at a banquet given in his honor, organizes and structures a dream-like vision of a defining season of his life.

Taylor's dream-like musings takes him on a mental journey into his past, beginning with the 37-year-old who has been out of baseball for three years as a result of arm injuries, seeking a return to his glorious baseball days with the Giants. Burdened with unsolved emotional conflicts involving himself and his

wife Della, also deaf, Taylor journeys from the small Kansas town of Baldwin (now Baldwin City) to New York to prove to McGraw that his arm is good as ever and all that he needs is a chance to prove it.

That journey to New York in the middle of the 1911 World Series of Giants against the Athletics climaxes with McGraw grudgingly inviting Taylor to accompany the Giants on the off-season trip to Cuba, now experiencing the deleterious aftermath of the Spanish-American War. The rusting hulk of the battleship USS Maine is still visible in Havana Harbor and seems to symbolize the condition of the country.

In Cuba, the Giants will play Cuban teams, and McGraw will scout for possible big league candidates. And Taylor will show McGraw that he can still play big league baseball.

This desperate attempt of an aging ball player provides the setting for Taylor's last and major journey—a journey of self-discovery which involves Taylor in the lives of the Cuban family of Luis Avelar, a 19-year-old Cuban, who like Taylor is deaf, and who possesses a whip of a pitching arm. For some reason Taylor cannot understand, Avelar is anti-social and reluctant to try out for the big leagues.

The family priest hints at other problems but will not discuss them. In an attempt to bring Luis out of his shell and to realize his potential, Taylor becomes not only Luis' mentor and coach but the manager of a team made up of other Cuban youths.

As a result of his efforts, Luis' family adopts Taylor, and to insure his seed will flower among them,

Luis' mother, still a fairly young passionate woman and a priestess in Sangrias, the Cuban magical religion, seduces him as part of a mystical rite.

It is while coaching his youthful team, that Taylor experiences the epiphany which eventually determined his later career. "Working with Luis and the others," Taylor later wrote, "it dawned on me that I was more content coaching on the diamond, surrounded by boys, than I had been pitching on it the day before."

Taylor eventually becomes so involved with overseeing and guiding the destinies of these young men, that he challenges the Giants to play his team, and, in defiance of McGraw, manages them in a showdown game that provides the novel's finale with ever-increasing tension for 27 pages and twelve innings.

The final game dramatically, and in some cases drastically resolves questions and issues raised by the novel's action.

Perhaps, "resolves" is not the correct word here, for several of the uncomfortable questions and issues that Brock's novel raises, like an incurable suppurating sore, plague us still. In other words, Brock has imbedded the action of early 20th century baseball in a timeless framework of human problems.

Yet, the action is all fiction. It didn't really happen.

"Dummy" Taylor never went to Cuba. There never was any Luis Avelar. The reader, as well as Taylor himself, has been on a dream-vision journey. But isn't that what skillful story tellers do? They take us by our imagination and show us what could

have been. What might have been. What should have been. And in the final analysis, they give us an honest mirror of our own desires, dreams, virtues, faults, and vanities.

Brock's research into the era about which he writes is impressive. He read a library of baseball books about the times as well as books that treat of Cuban history at the end of the 19th century.

He enrolled in a sign language course to better understand the culture of the deaf and traveled to Baldwin City, Kansas, to interview anyone who remembered anything about Luther Taylor and his family.

He was in Cuba at the time of the protests for Elian Gonzales to get a better understanding of there are in which he sets the action of the novel.

Brock's depiction of the historical major league figures such as McGraw and Mathewson follows the record. McGraw is as belligerent, violent and as obnoxious as the papers of the day described him.

Yet, somehow, Brock makes him a fascinating personage whom we come to understand and even admire in the last actions of the novel.

Brock's second novel is even better than his first best selling "If I Never Get Back."

His prose is lean and sinewy, and when he describes a baseball game, it is as accurate and as hard-hitting as the pitches that rip into the glove of Luis Avelar's catcher.

Brock lives in Berkeley. Brock has always had an interest in education. He taught high school social studies and served a stint as director for GED, the program that enables the educationally disadvantaged to get the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Though basically serious in his outlook on life, Brock has a pixyish sense of literary humor that shows up in his writings from time to time, particularly when he addresses some aspect of the writings of Mark Twain, a writer whom Brock reveres.

In "Havana Heat," he references his own first novel, "If I Never Get Back," by having an elderly Cuban ballplayer inquire after Fowler, the main character of the latter novel, who disappeared into the past of the late 1860s and became ballplayer in the first of the national teams.

Brock is married to Lura Dolas, a well-known Bay Area actress who has appeared in many productions of the Berkeley/California Shakespeare Festival and most recently as the mother in Tennessee Williams' "Glass Menagerie" at the Aurora Theater in Berkeley.

She also teaches acting and drama classes at the UC Berkeley.

"Havana Heat" is due to be published April 15 of this year, by Total Sports Illustrated.

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EL CERRITO IN BRIEF

Davis resigns from Human Relations Commission

Human Relations Commission Chairwoman Barbara Davis will resign from the commission effective April 6. In a Feb. 23 letter to the city, Davis said, "I find it impossible to continue to spend time and energy to turn around the thinking and actions of elected officials from special interest groups to the needs of all El Cerritos." Davis said she will not comment further about the reasons behind her resignation until after the April 5 HRC meeting.

"It is my plan to continue to contribute and participate in working for the good of all El Cerritos, especially the needs of residents of west El Cerrito," Davis said in her letter. "It is my hope that the present City Council will broaden its perspective of their purpose as councilmembers and become more respectful to all citizens."

At last week's City Council meeting, Davis emphasized she was talking as a private citizen, and told council members that west El Cerrito should not become a "dumping ground" for a new parking garage. Davis also said she was displeased with how the council handled a Feb 22 resolution to oppose Proposition 21, the juvenile crime initiative.

The council considered and eventually voted to table the motion without either supporting or opposing Prop. 21, which later passed in the March 7 Primary Election.

Davis said she will discuss the reasons for her resignation at the commission meeting next month.

City Council reverses denial of setback

Last week the City Council overturned an earlier Planning Commission decision to deny a front yard setback variance for a Kent Drive residence. Owners William and Andrea Spurgeon appealed the Planning Commission denial of a variance to allow a street-level addition to encroach 4.5 feet into the required 20 foot setback normally required.

They have plans to enlarge a front bedroom, bathroom and closet, add a lower level bathroom, and add an entry porch to their home.

Over the years, the front yard setback requirements on Kent Drive have changed, with the result that some houses were built with 15-foot setbacks and others with 25-foot setbacks. In 1977, the 20-foot setback was established. The Spurgeons' house was originally built in 1974 with a 20-foot setback.

The Spurgeons and their architect made a case that because of site limitations and lot slope and topography, their current plan, encroaching on the front yard setback, was the only one feasible. The Spurgeons also listed scores of variances approved by the city since 1987 and presented a list of neighbors who said they have no problem with the proposed addition.

"Our modest plans for one-half of the front of our house, encroaching into the setback, are overwhelmingly supported by our neighbors, especially our next door neighbors on the side most affected by the addition," Andrea Spurgeon told the council.

The City Council granted the variance with a 4-0 vote. Councilwoman Kathleen Perka was absent from the meeting.

Flynn commended by mayor, council

Mayor Mark Friedman and the City Council proclaimed Louis Flynn "ambassador of community theater in El Cerrito" and gave him a city commendation at last week's council meeting. Louis and his late wife Bettianne, along with 30 volunteers, founded the Contra Costa Civic Theatre in 1960 in the old Vista Movie Theater on San Pablo Avenue.

Flynn remains active in the theater and holds the title of artistic director there. Louis and Bettianne are members of El Cerrito's Wall of Fame and in 1978 the CCCT building at the corner of Pomona Avenue and Moeser Lane was renamed the Flynn Building.

"Our community owes a debt of gratitude to Louis Flynn for all his efforts in founding and sustaining CCCT for 40 years," the commendation states.

Fund-raiser to benefit Flynn Building

Last week, Contra Costa Civic Theatre board of directors member Stephen Porter, board Vice President Marge Collins and others outlined plans for a bigger and better Flynn Building. The fund-raising effort, called "Staging Our Future," hopes to raise \$750,000 to enhance and remodel the present CCCT building. The group presented its plans to the City Council last week.

The new plan redesigns the front of the building to allow for two offices, "a more secure and professional box office," a new concession stand and sheltered entryway.

"New windows will improve the building's energy efficiency and appearance and bring natural light into the office while a new entrance will improve traffic flow," a CCCT outline of the project states. The plan calls for new theater seats, new sound and lighting systems, a new self-contained scene shop and renovation of the Terrace Room and theater kitchen.

The fund raising campaign will be formally announced tomorrow, March 18, at a special celebration honoring founding Artistic Director Louis Flynn.

"CCCT is planning a community wide campaign to generate a broad base of support," theater backers announced. "Local businesses will be asked for direct and in-kind donations. Subscribers, single-ticket buyers and volunteers will be offered the opportunity to leave their legacy through a targeted 'buy a seat' campaign."



District

FROM PAGE A1

under the direction of an assistant superintendent for administrative services, according to a statement prepared by Mills, a position "which will create improved understandings of the various operations by the administrator in charge."

"I understand why Gary is doing the restructuring," Camp said, her face drawn following the sometimes emotional meeting. "It's just something he feels he needs to do. I can't say it's a bad idea."

But the Cornell School multi-purpose room was packed with people Tuesday night who voiced numerous of concerns about the plan.

"I really like our new superintendent," said parent Janet Seltzer. "He definitely has best interests of students at heart. I just don't personally agree with this decision. If you have somebody as good as Marianne Camp, you just keep them. And she is just that good."

Additional responsibilities for the new assistant superintendent posi-

tion would include supervision of classified (non-teaching) personnel. Focus on staff development, programs, and curriculum would play a smaller role than the position currently held by Camp.

Dozens of parents and three teachers praised Camp, who is in her second year with the district, for her "hands-on" approach to developing a unified curriculum in Albany, and urged the superintendent to reconsider the proposal. Several speakers appeared to fight back tears when describing the hard work done by Camp, and what they described as open lines of communication developed between teachers and parents as a result of her efforts.

Parent Peter Hobart was one of several who agreed with the need for a district reorganization, a move he said is long overdue. "But Albany needs to attract people to our district because of our programs," he said. "We need a dynamic person to develop curriculum, one with a vision for the new millennium. And there's nobody else in the district with the talent and ability to do that except Marianne."

"I'm just puzzled about the

process used to develop this restructuring plan," said Christiane Khan. "I thought we were clear when we hired a new superintendent that we wanted someone who would listen."

Khan is a member of the Key Communicator Group, a broad-based community committee established by Mills to help facilitate better communication in the district and involve parents in the decision making process.

"We have never had a meeting," Khan said. "I don't know why that kind of a forum wasn't used before proposing such sweeping change. It would have been better if the community would have been consulted so people could be part of the process instead of having things done to them."

"I certainly appreciate and understand the comments that were made about Marianne and the progress she made in curriculum development," Mills said. "I think the people who came and spoke directly to that were right on the mark."

"You know we just can't always move ahead strategically just considering one individual and one area

It happens every spring

PLAYERS ON the Phillips baseball diamond to the assemblage of teams on Ashbury in front of the Costa Civic Theatre on March 12 when El Cerrito Youth held its annual parade and the crowd of players and

of responsibility and how moved ahead," Mills said to see the big picture of keeping in mind that curriculum development is important. We also have to be that are important to our staff as well."

Mills said he was glad to see the community's response to the restructuring plan. He said the community's response was "difficult." Jones said a board would "reconsider" the plan before making a decision.

"I am extremely flattered by the responses from the community and the public comment meeting came to an end."

"I have worked really hard for the past few years, and given heart to this community. I have seen that and I miss them very much."

Albany officers stopped 88 citations and responded to 11 reports of crimes and 72 Civil Assaults.

Albany officers stopped 88 citations and responded to 11 reports of crimes and 72 Civil Assaults.

Albany

FROM PAGE A2

silver 1988 Toyota 4-runner and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 10:30 p.m. on March 11, officers responded to a restaurant on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue on reports that an armed robbery had just taken place. A customer had discovered employees locked in the cooler. The suspect was described as an African-American man in his 30s, 5-feet-10 inches tall, weighing 175 pounds, clean-shaven, with a short haircut, wearing a dark green T-shirt and baggy pants. The weapon was described as a black semi-automatic.

The suspect escaped with cash. Police are investigating.

During the week of March 5 officers towed two cars, responded to eight false alarms, attended to three

lost or deceased animals, assisted four people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to four reports of barking dogs.

In the domestic arena, officers re-

sponded to 11 reports of crimes and 72 Civil Assaults.

Albany officers stopped 88 citations and responded to 11 reports of crimes and 72 Civil Assaults.



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Real Estate & Home

The Montclarion, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

March 17, 2000

Section B

The Green Line Vinyl conveniences also home health hazards [B7]

Weekly Sales The market is still sizzling — here's the proof [B8]

Open Homes So many listings, so little time [B11]

Avoid mortgage no-nos

■ Experts know the home-loan pitfalls that can snare the unwary

By Julie Clairmont
CORRESPONDENT

IS CHOOSING a mortgage loan: a) confusing b) scary c) stressful d) all of the above?

The average consumer would probably answer d) all of the above. For decades, psychologists have ranked buying a house as one of life's most stressful experiences, right up there with other major events like marriage, divorce or changing careers. Financial experts say this is because committing to a mortgage loan is the biggest financial decision most people make in their lifetimes.

Add in the frenzied state of the Bay Area real estate market, the mountain of paperwork involved and the mortgage "vocabulary" that includes intimidating words such as "negative amortization" and "prepayment penalty," and it's enough to raise anybody's blood pressure.

Fortunately, there are a number of books available to help consumers make a wise mortgage choice. One of these is "Mortgages for Dummies" by Ray Brown and Eric Tyson. Tyson, a financial counselor and syndicated columnist, and Brown, a real estate counselor and radio



DAVID YEH, here with his children Nicholas, 7, and Bryanna, 5, knows firsthand how difficult it is to find the right mortgage.

See MORTGAGE, Page B9

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You



By Don Dunning

"Perception is sometimes more important than reality. Out of context, the price seemed high."

Price properly in percolating seller's market

Long-time real estate professionals have reluctantly acquiesced to what we know is an alternate reality: Home prices that only a few months ago seemed so high as to be preposterous, are now accepted with Prozac-like calm.

Some now even appear to be pretty good deals. All of a sudden, prices are increasing on Internet time.

Although this trend is wonderful if you are a seller, your approach to pricing still needs to be suitable for current conditions. Taking pricing lightly, or basing it on the wrong assumptions, could spell a \$50,000 mistake.

Using comps differently

In previous cycles, including everything from a depressed, buyer's market to a relatively peppy, seller's market, price

See DUNNING, Page B18

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Hot market takes toll on common courtesy

Strange and unsettling things are afoot in the market. You may have heard that there are houses on which 20, even 30, offers are made. You probably know that overbids are common, that some houses are selling for \$100,000 more than asking price, sometimes even more than that.

We hear about new ones every day. Just when we think we've been shocked beyond our ability to be shocked further, there's a new story:

A Fruitvale-area Oakland house listed for \$299,000 has sold, we hear, for \$460,000. Another in Berkeley's Elmwood with an asking price of \$475,000 closed for \$712,000.

"How can that be?" agents ask each other. "That house with the original, old kitchen? It was charming, but . . . it sold for what?"

We run in and out of houses on tour day, hear snippets of conversation and stop long enough to find out the details of another unbelievable sale.

We hold open houses and are amazed at the numbers of potential buyers. Some of them pause to talk, to tell us that they have bid on six or seven or 10 houses and lost them all.

At our last open house, a woman stood in the kitchen looking decidedly sad, so much so that Anet asked what was wrong. The woman answered that the house was so beautiful; she was sure that she and her husband could not bid high enough to buy it. They'd already lost nine others.

This would-be buyer was standing in a house that she would like to own, but she was in the process of a mental forecast, going over a scene she'd experienced before. She could hear what the conversation between herself, her husband and their agent would be, how they would decide how much to offer, how far to go over list price. Then they'd write it up and after that, they'd wait, fearful to hear how many offers there were, and eventually, who had won. She was sure it wouldn't be them; they'd be disappointed again.



By Tarpo and Talbert

These are sad stories. Buyers are searching for houses to buy that are further and further away from where they intended to live. If they began in Berkeley, they're now looking in El Cerrito, Oakland or San Leandro. If they had in mind living in San Francisco, they've given up on that idea and are looking for houses in Berkeley. Still, many remain unsuccessful.

Unfortunately, in the course of the frenzy, some important courtesies can slip by the wayside.

For example, some agents, not knowing how to handle a large number of offers, have given up on face-to-face offer presentations. They tell buyers' agents that they'll accept sealed bids on a certain day.

"Just deliver or fax them to my office by 5 p.m.," they say, and the buyers' agents, having no option, do just that. They are not afforded the traditional opportunity to personally meet with the seller, to describe the offer they have written and to talk about their buyers, why these buyers selected this particular house.

Later, probably the following day, these agents whose buyers are anxious, perhaps unable to sleep as they wait to hear the outcome of their bids to buy, call the listing agent to ask who won.

We have been told that there are listing agents who do not even bother to let the losers know that they've lost, let alone thank them for their efforts.

One agent told us that she learned

her buyer's offer had not been accepted only when the pending sale showed up on the multiple listing computer.

There is discourtesy from sellers, too. Some sellers, confident that their houses will sell for formerly unprecedented prices, don't do a thing to ready their properties for market. Buyers and agents walk into houses full of clutter and poor housekeeping. No one bothered to wash the windows, pick clothes off of the floor or run a vacuum.

"Buy it like it is" seems to be the message. Better thinking would be, "Graciousness dictates that I offer my house as best I can because while a number of people will put their time and heart and hope into making it their own, only one can succeed."

Recently a buyer touring a listing of ours asked why we went to so much trouble to present the house so well. "It would sell anyway," she remarked, and she is probably right. It isn't solely altruism on our part that causes us to present houses in their best light; we do have an obligation to obtain the highest and best price for our seller.

But, in addition, we enjoy houses that are shiny and attractive, we know that most buyers feel the same, and we think that it is the right way to go about things.

We've heard about sellers who offered their houses at a certain price, listened to one or more offers, then decided that none was high enough, so raised the asking price. This is not right.

Perhaps the highest offer received was "only" \$20,000 over list whereas the seller had his heart set on an overbid of at least \$50,000. Disappointed (and greedy), the seller refuses to sell, raises the price, and waits for another buyer.

While no seller can be made to sell his house, the list price should be carefully considered and should be a price that the seller would be willing to accept, not just a "jumping off" place which the seller may

abandon later.

It is our feeling that in this wild and crazy market, it must be remembered that it is the buyers who make the market. Without them, after all, there would be no sales.

Especially at this time, we think, sellers and their agents must bend over backwards to offer everything possible to buyers. The selling of houses often occurs these days very quickly. A buyer sees the house for perhaps an hour or two, then must commit in a big way to buying it. For this reason, for the stress that accompanies such a move, for the sake of simple good grace, every effort should be made to obtain and provide all manner of information about the condition of every house. Disclosures must be thoughtfully and fully written, bids for termite and other work made available before offers are made.

It's just not good for a buyer to find that the person holding the open house isn't the listing agent but a substitute who knows no particulars about the house. It is wrong when whomever is there does not yet have a termite report, has no idea what the age of the roof is, doesn't even know if stove and refrigerator are included in the sale.

This isn't a sweater or pair of shoes that is being sold; we're talking a big, life-altering purchase here. The only appropriate way to go about selling is to be thorough and mannerly.

This is a good time for sellers. Buyers are making it so. It is therefore the best time to treat the customer better than ever.

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at patanet@lmi.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.



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1043 EVELYN AVE. - CLEAN, CUTE, COZY! 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths, detached garage. Remodeled addition in 1993. Stan Lockhart 748-1805

OAKLAND

1418 JEFFERSON - COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PLUS RESIDENTIAL. Store front with two 3 bedroom units. Moon Tam 748-1620

3745 BROOKDALE AVE. - 8 UNITS WITH 9 GARAGES ON A LARGE LOT. Quiet court, separately metered, 4 one bedrooms, 4 studios. Moon Tam 747-1620

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801 NORTHVALE RD. - TRESTLE GLEN/SUNNY HILLS AREA. New kitchen & bath, refinished hardwood floors, 3+ bedrooms, 2.5 baths, extra rooms in basement, double car garage, redwood deck. Security system. Kitty Wan 748-1128

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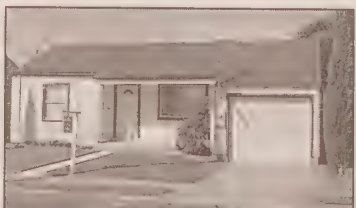
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When it's your move...

Tax exclusion benefits sellers

Real Estate Forum



By Dian Hymer

"The new tax law reduced the maximum capital gains rate from 28 to 20 percent."

SELLER TIP: The 1997 tax law didn't clearly spell out how much capital gains tax homeowners owed if they sold before the required two years. A law passed last year clarified the issue. To calculate how much tax you'd owe on your gain, multiple the exclusion amount you'd be entitled to if you owned for two years (\$250,000 for singles or \$500,000, if married and filing jointly) by your residency period expressed as a fraction of two years.

Let's say you bought a home in Berkeley for \$350,000 on June 30, 1997. Your employer transfers you to New York 18 months later, so you sell your home. You close on the sale on Dec. 30, 1998 and realize a profit of \$150,000. You're single so you'd be entitled to a capital gain exclusion of \$250,000 if you had resided at the property for two years. You've lived at the property for three quarters or 75 percent of the statutory

time period.

To arrive at this fraction, divide 18 months by 24 months (or 1.5 years by two years). Seventy-five percent of \$250,000 is \$187,500. So you will have no capital gain liability on this sale because your \$150,000 profit is less than \$187,500.

The new tax law is expected to help most home sellers. However, homeowners that have benefited from decades of home price appreciation might have done better under the old tax law.

For example, suppose you bought your current home for \$100,000 twenty-five years ago. It's worth \$750,000 today. If you're single, you'll owe capital gains tax on \$400,000 (\$650,000 of gain less the \$250,000 exclusion).

Under the old law you could have deferred the entire gain if you bought another home within two years for \$750,000 or more.

The new tax law reduced the maximum capital gains rate from 28 to 20 percent. The required holding period is twelve months. If you acquire a primary residence after Dec. 31, 2000, and hold it for at least five years before selling, the top capital gains rate will be 18 percent.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide."

You can get away with separate and higher-capacity washers and dryers for under \$800, and do even better when they are on sale.

The advantage of GE's Space-maker laundry center is that it takes up much less space than separate appliances, so it can be fitted to a second-floor closet in a house, in an apartment, and in vacation cottage or pool houses where square footage is limited.

This model comes with a stack rack that provides more space between the washer and dryer to provide additional work room. A built-in fluorescent light shines down from the stack rack to illuminate the washtub, making laundry easier to do.

The washer has a bi-fold lid that lifts up and slides back to provide total accessibility for loading and

unloading.

Other features include an electronic touch pad for programming; a load-sensing monitor that keeps the water at proper levels; a stainless steel tub; high-speed spin that eliminates more water and speeds drying time; and 10-cycle options. Call 800-626-2000.

REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE, MORE EASILY

Also from the Good Housekeeping Institute, a report that headset phones aren't just for telemarketers anymore. Those hands-free phones are great for busy homemakers, too. "Just clip the transmitter-receiver to your belt, put on the headset, and you can chat with friends while you're folding laundry or cooking dinner," the institute says.

— From wire reports



Real Estate Market

2000

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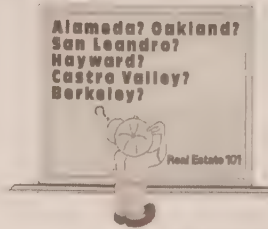
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2464 West Street, Berkeley
\$279,000

This cute, split level starter home has distinctive architectural details, two bedrooms, a fabulous sunroom with terra cotta floors, and a big back yard. The garage has been converted to a studio with kitchenette and bath. Located on a quiet street in an established Berkeley neighborhood convenient for commuting and Emeryville/West Berkeley shopping.

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Single Financed Premium eases MI blues

Mortgage insurance usually is required on most loans that have less than 20 percent borrower's equity, whether a purchase or refinance. Actually, all loans carry mortgage insurance, which protects the lender against a borrower's default.

The key is that if the borrower has less than 20 percent equity, the borrower pays the insurance premiums. Over 20 percent equity, the lender pays the premiums.

Still, there is no tax advantage in mortgage insurance, and many annoyed homeowners feel like they're essentially paying rent on their loan.

To make mortgage insurance a bit more palatable, look into a "Single Financed Premium," considered part of the nonrecurring closing costs and actually financed in the loan.

This loan product is available for conforming and jumbo loans to a maximum of \$400,000. Amortized over 30 years, it has a fixed rate payment for five years and then turns into an Adjustable Rate Mortgage based on the one year T-Bill index.

Mortgage Madness



By
**Karen
Senzig**

"This loan product is available for conforming and jumbo loans to a maximum of \$400,000."

The SFP requires at least a 10 percent down payment. That money must come from the borrowers' own funds (no gifts or loans allowed).

When we ran the numbers, we found that the payments were even better than an 80-10-10 piggyback loan (with a lender funded first and second trust deeds).

For example: Our borrower is in contract for a \$275,000 purchase and has a 10 percent down payment. So that we compare apples to apples, the first trust deed will be set at 7.875

percent. The loan amount with a 10 percent down payment is \$247,500.

In the usual instance, the principal and interest payment with mortgage insurance (\$107) would be \$1,902 per month.

In the 80-10-10 piggyback scenario, the first trust deed would only be \$220,000 but still set at 7.875 percent.

The principal and interest payment on the first trust deed would be \$1,595.

The 10 percent second trust deed interest rate is 9 percent and amortized over 15 years.

The principal and interest payment on the second is \$279 per month. Although we have a 9 percent interest rate on the second, the combined monthly principal and interest payment is \$1,874, \$28 per month less than the 90 percent loan with mortgage insurance.

And the higher interest rate has a tax benefit which is what has made piggyback loans so popular over the years. The Single Financed Premium scenario saves the borrower even

more money per month.

The lender calculates the base loan amount, again 90 percent or \$247,500 and multiplies it by the SFP MI factor, which in this case is 1.65 percent.

The new loan amount which includes the single premium of \$4084 is \$251,584. The monthly principal and interest payment, based on an interest rate of 7.875 percent is \$1,824, saving the borrower \$78 per month over the loan with MI and \$50 per month over the piggyback loan.

The real key here is that the MI is now financed and part of the loan amount. As such, it reduces the monthly mortgage insurance payment or second trust deed payment.

Altogether a nicer, kinder mortgage insurance with a tax advantage.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511; fax 510-339-3814 and e-mail ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with topics for discussion.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16 to 19

The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. Imagine your garden as a blank canvas. Your trowel, rake and hoe are brushes. Your seeds and starts are the colors you'll use to paint a picture. How will you set about expressing the creativity within you? Before you begin, perhaps you should gather inspiration by examining the masterworks of other like-minded artists at the 15th annual San Francisco Flower & Garden Show Held at San Francisco's Cow Palace. Tickets \$12.50 in advance (available at retail nurseries and by mail); \$14.50 at the door; \$12.50 at the door after 3 p.m.; \$11.50 for groups (20 or more, purchase in advance by calling 206-789-5333). Children 11 and under are free. Show hours are: Thursday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Check www.gardenshow.com for outlets near you. Brochures available by calling the show office at 415-771-6909.

March 29, 30, 31

Technology and Trade Faire. The Alameda Association of Realtors, in cooperation with the Bay East, Berkeley, Contra Costa, Delta, Oakland and West Contra Costa associations of Realtors, present a Technology and Trade Faire for real estate professionals. The public is invited to the Trade Faire on Friday, March 31. You can learn firsthand about new industry software tools and best practices. Vendors will include Top Producer, a database management company; Onix Cross Directory; Homes.com; Automation Ques; Picture Works; Toshiba; HomeGain.com; Richochet, a wireless modem company; Entice, a virtual walkthrough company; and others. Reception with hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Cost is \$15 for the one-day public session. Tickets may be purchased at the door. All events will be held at Scott's Seafood Restaurant & Pavilion, Jack London Square, Oakland.

April 8

'Phoenix' House and Garden Tour. The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. (JLOEB) will hold a "Phoenix" House and Garden Tour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds benefit Children at Risk. Five post-1991 Oakland Hills fire homes will be showcased on this tour. These are inspiring examples of how this Oakland neighborhood has risen from the ashes. The event will begin at the Montclair Recreation Center, 6300 Moraga Ave., Oakland. Guests will be given a map directing them to the homes located primarily in the Rockridge area. Admission is \$20 per person in advance (or \$28.50 with a box lunch), and \$25 on the day of the event. Box lunches must be ordered in advance and will not be available for purchase on the day of the tour. To make your reservation, mail a check payable to JLOEB Home Tour c/o Chene Soza, 173 Clyde Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. For more information

about this event or about JLOEB, visit the League web site at www.jloeb.org.

Home improvement

Truitt and White Lumber Saturday seminars: The following seminars are held at Truitt and White Lumber, 642 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. Reservations required. Call 510-649-2674.

"Deck Installation and Finishing Options." March 25, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

"Contractors: Tips and techniques for easy, weathertight window and door installations." March 18, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

We accept event announcements on a space-available basis. Fax listings for this section to 510-748-1680, write 1516 Oak St., Alameda 94501 or e-mail jsnyder1@attimes.com.

COMING SOON!!



This wonderful 4+ bedroom/2+ bath home in a unique quiet neighborhood on a quiet, tree-lined street with sidewalks! The gourmet kitchen/family room has granite counters, breakfast nook, deck and patio! Other fabulous details include: a luxurious new master bath, study with oak, wainscoting (and view), a secluded hot tub and air conditioning.

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1193 Trestle Glen Road • Offered at \$569,000
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Featured Home of the Week

History & Happiness in Piedmont \$1,300,000
After 50 years, this well located home is going to be available! Wonderful architecture, 6BR/4.5BA with a family room off kitchen & lovely deck overlooking a large peaceful garden. Anian Pettit Tunney

Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

50 Maxwellton Road, Piedmont \$1,450,000

A gorgeous redesigned Mediterranean home w/ exquisite Bay view! Enjoy the elegance & style throughout this 3BR/2.5BA showcase. Debra Dryden
9050 Broadway Terrace \$1,125,000
Tuscan Villa on sunny knoll. Artistic quality finishes throughout. Level courtyard, gourmet kitchen & master suite w/fireplace. Sandra Vogl
408 Hiller Drive New Listing \$499,000
Pride of ownership is evident from the moment you enter this 3BR/2.5 BA townhome featuring high quality finishes & custom interior. Susanne Paul

45 Melvin Court New Listing \$499,000

Dramatic contemporary w/soaring ceilings & fabulous bay views. Gorgeous front garden, great cul-de-sac location, 4BR/2.5BA, eat-in kitchen, large decks & expansion potential. James Garcia

A New Home in Orinda \$2,450,000

Elegant architecture & exceptional detailing accent this stately new Mediterranean home in Sleepy Hollow 6BR/4.5 BA, fabulous kitchen, landscaped garden with pool and decks. John Karnay

Piedmont New Listing \$955,000

This classic traditional is surrounded by lovely gardens & filled with style. Gracious formal rooms, eat-in kitchen, master suite & 3+BR/4BA. Michelle Winchester

Montclair - New Construction \$920,000

Traditional Craftsman style home scheduled for completion in May 2000. 4 BR/2BA plus den. Partial view. Fabulous kitchen and hardwood floors. John Karnay

Montclair \$479,000

Fabulous setting w/Bay view! Level garden, 3BR/1.5BA + office or rumpus room w/separate entry. Formal dining & level-in garage. Judy Rankankan

610 Wildcat Canyon Rd., Berkeley \$450,000

New Listing. Serene setting overlooking Tilden Park. This 3BR/2BA home includes an updated kitchen, hardwood floors comfortable indoor/outdoor living and a dark room. Melitta Beeson

4350 Terrabella Way New Listing \$349,000

This 7 yr. old 3BR/2.5 BA home features a spacious living room w/fireplace, large eat-in kitchen, formal dining room & elegant master suite. Sherry Benninger

5343 Broadway Terr #306 New Listing \$279,000

Rare Rockridge 2BR/2BA condominium. Sun-filled views of golf course. Great location close to restaurants shops & transportation. Ashley O'Neill

By Appointment

Charming Duplex \$399,000

Duplex w/charm galore. Main house: 2BR/1BA, large formal dining room, kitchen & separate laundry. 2nd unit above garage 1BR/1BA, hardwood floors & garden. Carin Caroe

Opportunity Knocks! \$369,000

Wonderful potential in this charming 2+BR/2BA home on great tree-lined street, close to everything. Spacious kitchen. Lovely garden. Anian Pettit Tunney

The Parkwoods \$269,000

Popular Piedmont model. Features include fireplace & 2 bedroom suites. Convenient location for easy commute. Parkwood amenities include pool, sauna & gym. Debbi DiMaggio



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ELMWOOD FIVE-PLEX

Built in 1915, this unique property offers four 1BR units in front building and an adorable 3BD, 1 BA rear cottage. Each elegant unit has living room w/fireplace and spacious formal dining rm w/built-ins. Nancy Lee Noman, ext. 124\$975,000



OPEN SUN 2-4 • NORTH BERKELEY HILLS

Bright and elegant 3BD/3BA 1927 Tudor with many extras. Close to both the "Gourmet Ghetto" and Sausalito shops, restaurants and both Peets Coffee. Kim Habu, ext. 151\$750,000



20 TERRACE WALK • OPEN SUN 2-4:30

Located on a historic North Berkeley walk, this charming home features 4+ bedrooms, 2 baths plus in-law possibilities. Bay views. Linda Wolan, ext. 123\$625,000



WALK TO SHOPS!

Wonderful 3BD in Thousand Oaks! Large yard, hardwood floors, Bay view, basement plus room. Special Property includes a corner in Kensington! Rebe McRae, ext. 145\$450,000

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260 Caldecott Lane #321

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Please recycle what you can

'Space Age' architecture shape of future passed

Owning a Piece of History



By Mark A. Wilson

"Geodesic domes were the very essence of Space Age architecture, for those who liked living in a ball..."

and engineer to deal with the special requirements of their design and construction.

These homes were too expensive for the average middle class family. Glass houses did become popular with a certain segment of upper middle class professionals and artists, and several thousand of them were built in upscale suburban communities between 1950 and the late 1970s.

Glass houses dot the East Bay Area, in the more recently developed areas of the East Bay hills. Here are a few examples:

A slightly modified version of a glass house can be seen at 33 Monte Vista Rd. in Orinda. It was designed in 1962 by architect Charles Moore for his own use. Unlike pure glass houses, this home has a hipped roof and partial wood paneling on about a third of its walls, but floor-to-ceiling plate glass covers all four sides.

There's another good example of a glass house at 8 Greenwood Common in the North Berkeley hills. I listed and sold this house in 1986. I recall how open and light the inte-

rior felt.

This home was designed in 1953 by Berkeley architect Howard Morse, and was perfectly suited for its site: a multi-acre greensward owned in common with several neighbors.

Geometric shapes reign

Pure geometric shapes were popular for residential designs during the 1960s and '70s. Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome, first used for the United States Pavilion at the Montreal World's Fair in 1967, was imitated by hundreds of home-builders across the nation over the next 15 years.

Geodesic domes were the very essence of Space Age architecture; for those who liked living in ball-shaped houses, they worked well as a residential style.

Modular lunar landing craft fueled interest in another kind of geometric architecture: cut-out vertical boxes. Considered in retrospect as neither elegant nor futuristic, cut-outs first appeared in the East Bay hills in the mid 1960s and reached their zenith in the '70s. After NASA lost its thrust for manned missions, so did cut-out vertical box architecture, which faded from the national radar screen by the early '80s.

The cut-out vertical box consisted of an upright box shape cut into sections and reassembled. Its walls were sheathed in wood shingles or siding, which had plate glass windows punched through at varied intervals. These boxes had flat roofs and simple entrances.

Creators of this style claimed to be heirs to the First Bay Tradition of organic, integrated architecture

birthed by Bay Area designers of the early 1900s. That claim notwithstanding, First Bay greats Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan likely would not have tolerated these boxes' awkward shapes, monotonous surfaces and lack of individuality.

There are hundreds of cut-out vertical boxes in the East Bay Hills. One of the most classic renditions stands on Albany Hill, at 899 Hillside Ave. It was designed in 1960 by local architect George Homsey.

Another stands in the Oakland Hills at 200 Villanova Dr. It was designed in 1971 by architect William Turnbull of San Francisco.

Shed Roof

The Shed Roof style is similar to — but more attractive than — cut-out vertical boxes. Shed Roof style homes were created by the late, celebrated Bay Area architect Joseph Esherick and his associates. The Shed Roof style was first used on the so-called Hedge Row Houses at Sea Ranch, an environmentally-sensitive planned community on the northern California coast near Mendocino.

The Shed Roof house consists of an overall rectangular shape with a slanted roofline. The walls are covered in wood siding or shingles, and are punctuated by picture glass windows, often set into projecting, squared bays.

Entrances usually are plain wooden doors, sometimes set at the top of an exterior staircase leading to a raised first floor.

The Shed Roof design can look a bit awkward in the hands of lesser architects. But it at least has the virtues of organic materials and

clever, organic integration into the surroundings: normally rustic, tree-shaded site.

And a creative architect can lend a fair amount of variety to the design of these houses, principally by playing around with the placement of the windows and entrance.

For example, the nature museum building in Tilden Park, built around 1970, is a creative adaptation following Esherick's lead.

Concrete Brutalism

By far the least organic and most oppressive style to come out of American Space Age architecture was aptly dubbed Concrete Brutalism. This style first appeared on college campuses in the mid 1960s and reached its zenith in the 1970s, before mercifully fading from the scene in the early 1980s.

Concrete Brutalism was the result of the misguided notion that raw concrete surfaces and unrelieved concrete masses were beautiful because they were "honest and pure."

When applied to highrise buildings, this style has a singularly deadening effect, giving the appearance of a mass-unit public housing project, or a county or state correctional facility.

One of the least attractive elements of this style is that the windows and entrances are usually recessed, subordinated to the massing of large areas of pure concrete.

Two prime examples squat on the

campus of the University of California at Berkeley: Wurster Hall, the environmental design building, was designed in 1965 by the team of DeMars, Esherick and Olson. This was not one of Esherick's better efforts.

Evans Hall, the math department building, was finished in 1978. This is a particularly monotonous and unimaginative block of concrete, as anyone who has had to attend or teach classes inside this building can attest.

When the Concrete Brutalist style is modified and applied to low rise buildings integrated with carefully designed landscaping, however, it can redeem itself.

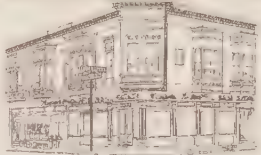
The best example of this more organic version of the style is the Oakland Museum, on Oak Street between 10th and 12th streets. Designed by Kevin Roach in 1969, this concrete building sprawls across a lushly landscaped site in a series of staggered terraces. It blends visually with surrounding gardens and trees.

Next week: Space Age architects championed organic materials and visual variety.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson.

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Soft level with formal dining, updated kitchen, sweet breakfast nook, hardwood floors throughout, bonus rec room.
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EARLE SHENK 510-287-9590

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Immaculate 5BD, 3BA home with beautiful master bedroom suite
150 Woodfield
TORILL HARGE 510-287-8862

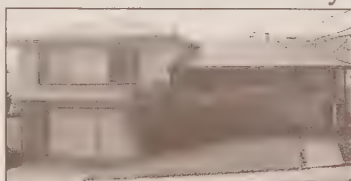
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Handsome Durant Manor Tudor Split-level, hardwood floors, dual-pane windows, 4BD + family room, breakfast nook, updated kitchen, plus 2BA with whirlpool tub, 2-car converted garage, storage
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PIEDMONT PINES FAMILY HOME.....\$649,500
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CAREFREE LIVING.....\$359,000
You must see to believe... This very special detached San Ramon home with great design and fabulous upgrades. Tiled oak eat-in kitchen, 3BD, 3 full BA, with one BD/BA on main level, bubbling spa, community pool and more!
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Recent paint throughout interior. New carpet, A/C unit, all new interior doors and custom woodwork in two bedrooms. Huge yard! Super clean. Single story, 4BD, 2BA, Dublin
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FIX IT THE WAY YOU WANT IT!.....\$325,000
Charming Craftsman-style with lovely oakwood and tile floors - hardwood floors - needs TLC, finished basement
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Wonderful 4-unit building that has been completely rebuilt and updated. Close to BART, parking, security and priced right. Don't miss this one.
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THIS IS IT!.....\$155,950
Don't miss this 2BD, 2 full BA, new carpet, paint, lino, washer and dryer, great location, woody area, pool and tennis.
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Sons in joint summit on woodworking skills

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE made our living as builders for nearly a quarter of a century, our interest in construction began when we were little. Our dad had an old-fashioned workshop that was filled with everything a kid could dream of. "The shop" featured a bench grinder, table saw, drill press, pipe vise and a bench vise.

There were many tools — both power and hand. We still remember the shiny chrome-cased drill, the sander and the drawer full of screwdrivers of every shape and size. There were cans of this and paints of that and lots of scrap wood from past projects saved for future ones.

The concrete floor was a work of art, covered with paint from every color of the rainbow. The wood top of the workbench was peppered with notches, cuts, gouges and dried glue.

We attribute a large measure of our interest in construction to the shop and how our dad miraculously could transform an old stack of wood into a thing of beauty that Mom inevitably found useful as a home for dishes, books, clothing or knickknacks.

We learned early that a saw, some nails or screws, glue and a few sticks of wood along with some time and energy could produce powerful results.

And, along the way, we discovered that not all wood joints are alike. We learned that the means by which two boards were attached had a lot to do with the appearance of what we were making and how well the joint held up.

Trim time

A miter joint is one of the cleanest-looking joints, but one of the weakest. It is used to hide the end-grain of a board. Miter joints traditionally are used to make picture frames and for

On the House



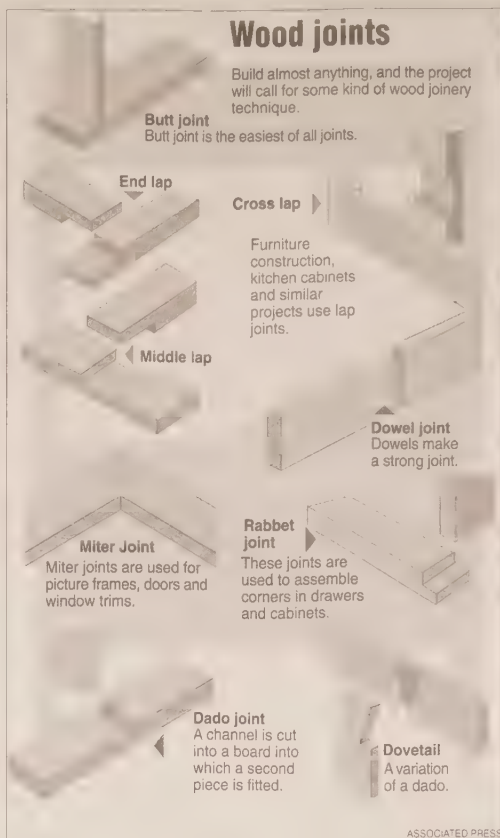
By Morris and James Carey

trim around windows and doors. Our earliest miters were made with a handsaw and a miter box that we made out of three pieces of wood screwed together. We used a carpenter's square to cut a 45-degree angled slot into the miter box, and we were off and running. With each use, the angles would become successively less accurate. Eventually, we traded up to a hand miter saw and table, and now make all of our miter cuts on an electric miter saw.

Before we began making miter joints, we started with the easiest and most common of joints — the butt joint. It is made by joining the end of one board to the side or end of another. Butt joints are used frequently in carpentry, but not nearly as often in woodworking or cabinet-making. The key to making a strong butt joint is to use fasteners (nails, screws, dowels) and glue. You can also use metal brackets if appearance will allow.

A variation of a butt joint that uses dowels for reinforcement is appropriately called a dowel joint. The wood must be carefully drilled, the boards perfectly aligned, and the dowels coated with glue to render the most professional results.

If you've ever made furniture or cabinets, you've probably used



a lap joint. There are several variations of this type of joint — half lap, full lap, end or corner lap, middle lap, cross lap and dovetail lap. The half lap is used to join wood of the same thickness. The two pieces of wood are notched half their thickness to make the connection. In contrast, a full lap is used to join boards of different thicknesses. For exam-

Wood joints

Build almost anything, and the project will call for some kind of wood joinery technique.

Butt joint
Butt joint is the easiest of all joints.

End lap

Cross lap

Furniture construction, kitchen cabinets and similar projects use lap joints.

Middle lap

Dowel joint
Dowels make a strong joint.

Rabbet joint

These joints are used to assemble corners in drawers and cabinets.

Miter Joint

Miter joints are used for picture frames, doors and window trims.

Dado joint

A channel is cut into a board into which a second piece is fitted.

Dovetail
A variation of a dado.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ple, when joining a 1-by-4 to a 2-by-4, the 2-by-4 is notched three-quarters of an inch (the thickness of a 1-by-4) to accept the 1-by-4. End, middle, cross and dovetail laps are variations of the half and full lap according to location and style.

A rabbet joint is most often

See CAREY, Page B7

Use faux fireplace all the year through

Q On a recent new home tour, I saw a beautiful electric fireplace with flames that looked realistic. It gave off heat and even made a crackling log sound. Are these models very efficient to use?

A: Fireplace kits with new electric logs are hard to distinguish from a real fire. Since they just plug into a standard wall outlet, you can have a crackling warm fire in about 10 minutes after you get it home. If you already have a fireplace, just buy the electric log/heater unit.

The hand-finished real wood, marble, stone, etc., fireplace surrounds and mantels rival the best gas log fireplaces. Since high heat is not a factor, attractive bookcases and shelves can be built in close to the opening. Some of the electric logs themselves are real wood, not fake ceramic or concrete.

What makes electric fireplaces ideal is that you can use them year-round. The electronics used to create the realistic flames consumes less than 200 watts, so it won't increase the cooling load on your central air conditioner.

In the winter, switch on the built-in electric heaters with blowers and thermostats that are built into most models. These produce heat 100 percent efficiently, just like any small electric room space heater.

As an engineer and former "Star Wars" toy designer for Kenner, I marvel at the simplicity of the methods used to produce the very realistic-looking flames. Some models even allow you to vary the appearance of the flames from that of a raging fire to just relaxing, lazy, flickering flames.

One of the neatest designs is the VisiFlame electric log. This design uses a smoked acrylic plastic movie-type screen in the back of the logs. Red and gold lights create the embers, and also reflect off foil ribbons onto the smoked screen. A

Cut your Utility



By James Dullea

tiny adjustable blower makes ribbons (flames) dance. Other designs use a combination of various colored up-rotating disks to vary and produce the flickering flame image. Special screening creates a swirling flame. To simulate the realistic woodburning crackling sound, spinning foil drum hits create a special plastic-sounding music.

Another simple and complete fireplace option is a gel-fuel model. These burn a gel of natural gel-fuel made from grapes. The cans are placed in ceramic logs. They burn for hours and look real. Each ounce can produce about 1 BTU of heat per hour as it burns.

Unlike vent-free gas fireplaces, there are no codes governing units. The cans, up to 6 inches high, can be placed on a light instantly with a match. Light out the fire, use a special slide a cover over the cans to stop logs to extinguish them.

Write for Update Bulletin, a buyer's guide of 11 electric and gel-fuel logs and fireplace units, outputs, flame types and features. Q: I have a slab foundation house and a gas water heater. One end. It takes forever for the water to get hot at the bathroom faucet. Is a hot water loop or a

See DULLEY, Page B7

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870 Sunnyhills Rd.
Crocker Highlands...\$410,000
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Ellen Lancaster

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696-18th St.
Oakland...\$249,000
Italianate Beauty. 4+BD/2+BA. Lots of original features. Minutes from downtown. BART. Zoned for either residential or commercial use
Victor Rafto

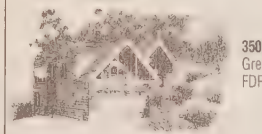
FIRST OPEN SUNDAY 2-5:00



3523 Victor Ave. Oakland...\$285,000
Sunny & Bright! Level-in bungalow with charm. 3+BD/2BA, 2 FP's, hardwood flrs. Filtered bay view. Garage with interior access. Ample space for gardening below.
Ruby Ng

3026 Harper St. Berkeley...\$265,000
New Listing! Spacious 4BD/2BA, sweet 2-story older home on tree-lined street, one block to Ashby BART! Needs work, but what a deal!
Don Coelho

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30



3508 Klamath St. Joaquin Miller...\$729,000
Great Natural Light. 10-year old contemporary with soaring ceilings. 5BD/4BA, 4 FP's, FDR, fam rm & rec rm. View of SF & Bay. Open 2 - 5 p.m.
Karen Lum/Vicky Faulk

7101 Thorndale, Montclair...\$399,000
Fixer Upper! Opportunity awaits in Montclair on large parcel of land - 1.7 acres +/- Private & secluded setting. Must see!
Donna Conroy

BY APPOINTMENT

Parkridge Estates...\$439,000
Fabulous Fixer. 4BD/2+BA, hardwood floors, fireplace, spectacular canyon view. 2-car garage, premier neighborhood. Needs TLC.
Victor Rafto

Rockridge...\$439,000
Walk to BART. You can have it all in this gorgeous 2+BD craftsman. Prime location, updated kitchen & bath. Original detail. Call!
Fritz Hochfeller

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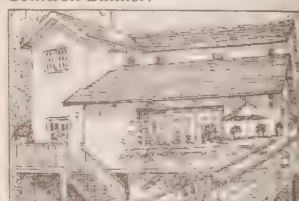
Alameda...\$279,000
Romantic Wanted! A sweet 2BD west end bungalow in great condition with updated kitchen & bath. Beautiful living room with fireplace.
Fritz Hochfeller

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784 Spruce Berkeley...\$875,000
Gorgeous 4BR, 2.5BA Elizabethan. Cheryl Chan

1515 Martin Luther King, Jr. Berkeley...\$265,000
Beautifully remodeled 2 BR. Lorri Arazi

2245 Glen Berkeley...\$395,000
3 BR, 1 BA. Fixer, Large lot. The Longs

2464 West Berkeley...\$279,000
2+ BR. 1 BA. Charming home with in-law. The Longs

2403 McGee Berkeley...\$365,000
2 BR. 1 BA. Beautifully decorated remodeled kitchen. Chris Chan

797 Keeler Berkeley...\$475,000
3+ BR. 2 BA. Bay views, deep water. Nancy Reichert

2237 Summer Berkeley...\$380,000
3+BR, 2BA. Classic Craftsman. Barbara Marienbach

565 Jackson Albany...\$485,000
3+BR, 2BA Views of the Berkeley Hills. Rita Zwerdling

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GRACIOUS TRADITIONAL IN PRESTIGIOUS THOUSAND OAKS...\$695,000
Super N. Berk. location! Spacious 2 story, 3BD, 2+BA home w/lovely DR that opens to remodeled kit. and huge park-like yard with hot tub. Master w/ dressing room & SF and GG views!

GRAND EUROPEAN STYLE WITH BAY VIEWS...\$679,000
Top North Berkeley location. Walk to Gourmet Ghetto or shops, restaurants. Spacious 5BD/3.5BA with in-law. Large rooms with beautiful wood paneling, FDR. Needs some TLC

BERKELEY BROWN SHINGLE CRAFTSMAN...\$600,000
Remarkable home in serene Northside location. Fine Craftsman features thru-out! Wood windows, exposed beam ceilings, built-ins, FP. Terrace garden. Walk to Gourmet Ghetto!

BEAUTIFUL SPACIOUS ALBANY TOWNHOME...\$475,000
JUST LISTED! Exceptionally spacious home with views of the Berkeley hills. 3 BD, plus a study/2 BA, formal dining. Beam ceiling in living room. Includes additional art studio/in-law.

LOVELY BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN...\$475,000
JUST LISTED! Just minutes from Tilden Park! Spacious charmer has 3 BD, office, 2 BA, recreation room, formal dining and hardwood floors! Plus deep, almost level, back yard with fruit trees

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART...\$395,000
JUST LISTED! North Berkeley Craftsman style needs a lot of work. 3 BD, 1 BA with loads of room to expand on huge lot. Perfect location. Walk to Gourmet Ghetto restaurants and shops

ONE OF A KIND ARTS & CRAFTS BERKELEY BUNGALOW...\$259,000
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SPLIT LEVEL BERKELEY STARTER...\$279,000
JUST LISTED! Super convenient. 3BD, 1.5BA, yet close to BART. 1 BA plus sunroom and in-law. Nice front landscaping, big back yard

STUNNING NORTH BERKELEY COTTAGE...\$259,000
This darling 2 BD charmer combines vintage style amenities. New kit. opens to living room, bath w/waterfall. New roof, foundation, bath, heating and more!

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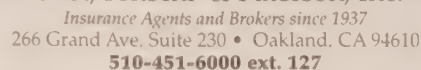
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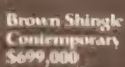


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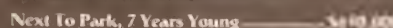
\$285,000



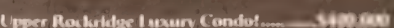
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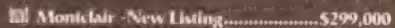
Sophisticated details and finishes throughout. Four bedrooms, three baths, sitting room, atrium, level garden and much more! STEVEN BLANKHEIM ext. 230



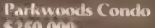
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WEEKLY HOME SALES

ALAMEDA

61 Bay Pk Tr - \$308,000
2033 Central Av - \$949,000
303 Central Av - \$268,000
1538 Chestnut St - \$308,000
27 Duarte Court - \$110,000
1369 Hansen Av - \$438,000
2947 Sea View Pk - \$757,500
600 Tern Ln - \$311,500
608 Tern Ln - \$330,500

ALBANY

719 Jackson St - \$355,000
555 Pierce St #E293 - \$225,000

BERKELEY

1520 6th #C - \$318,500
3058 Benvenue Av - \$626,500
1035 Cedar St - \$238,000
1463 Curtis Rd - \$328,000
101 Hillcrest Rd - \$151,000
1515 Hopkins St - \$242,500
1430 Lincoln St - \$400,000
2900 Mabel St - \$265,000
60 Oak Ridge Rd - \$940,000
1211 Pker St - \$365,000
2512 Russell St - \$510,000
817 San Diego Rd - \$585,000

EL CERRITO

313 Coronado St - \$262,000
124 Ramona Av - \$340,000

EMERYVILLE

1271 62nd St - \$300,000
8 Admiral Dr #241 - \$250,000
5 Admiral Dr #406 - \$110,000
3 Admiral Dr #F370 - \$136,000
6363 Christie Av #1226 - \$350,000
6363 Christie Av #1515 - \$222,000
6363 Christie Av #2907 - \$400,000
6 Commodore Dr #342 - \$120,000
5929 Vallejo St - \$225,000

OAKLAND

364 105th Av - \$113,000
2174 109th Av - \$173,500
1725 12th Av - \$170,000
1414 12th St - \$76,000
2407 19th Av - \$135,500
2632 25th Av - \$179,000
638 28th St - \$105,000
3222 38th Av - \$116,000
3760 39th Av #2 - \$165,000
673 57th St - \$210,000
922 58th St - \$162,500
678 61st St - \$180,000
1969 62nd Av - \$138,000
679 66th St - \$145,000
1665 69th Av - \$90,000
1308 94th Av - \$90,000
846 Alma Pl - \$320,000
6247 Aspinwall Rd - \$625,000
9229 B St - \$137,000
565 Bellevue Av #60 - \$210,000
2820 Burton Dr - \$839,000
3549 Calafia Av - \$299,000
200 Caldecott Ln #58 - \$182,000
1218 Campbell St - \$80,000

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$110,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$949,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$308,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$420,056

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$225,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$355,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$290,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$238,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$940,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$365,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$444,458

ON THE AVERAGE...

6604 Dana St - \$148,500
1233 Derby Av - \$150,000
8414 Dowling St - \$158,000
816 East 28th St - \$180,000
2207 East 33rd St - \$190,000
2425 Fruitvale Av - \$270,000
7949 Greenly Dr - \$229,000
4015 Greenwood Av - \$476,000
6008 Harmon Av - \$170,000
315 Hemphill Pl - \$330,000
5468 Holland St - \$211,500
1392 Holman Rd - \$375,000
7142 Homewood Dr - \$360,000
1 Kimberley Ct - \$501,000
20 Knoll Ridge Wy - \$2,030,500
1830 Lakeshore Av #207 - \$155,000
1830 Lakeshore Av #310 - \$182,500

5578 Lawton Av - \$555,000
295 Lenox Av #104 - \$225,000
3718 Lincoln Av - \$163,000
2917 MacArthur Bl #2J - \$78,000
3225 Madera Av - \$211,000
5801 Margarido Dr - \$476,000
5618 Market St - \$132,500
3585 Monterey Bl - \$385,000
3616 Monterey Bl - \$404,000
560 Oakland Av - \$575,000
6580 Oakwood Dr - \$915,000
4624 Redwood Rd - \$429,000
3045 Roxbury Av - \$331,000
1048 Stanford Av - \$145,000
3615 Suter St - \$80,000
556 Vernon St - \$450,000
10201 Voltaire Av - \$124,000
3938 Walnut St - \$130,000
9921 Walnut St - \$114,500

PIEDMONT

201 Mountain Av - \$621,500
321 San Carlos Av - \$750,000

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$262,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$340,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$301,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$110,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$400,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$222,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$234,778

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 60
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 76,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$2,030,500
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 180,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 283,008

RICHMOND

644 16th St - \$228,000
139 2nd St - \$70,000
580 2nd St - \$99,000
2712 Barnard Dr - \$182,500
3146 Boulders Ct - \$228,000
1200 Brickyard Wy #210 - \$280,000
134 Castro St - \$260,000
3704 Center Av - \$154,000
3152 Chaparral Ct - \$263,000
3426 Fleetwood Dr - \$250,000
2985 Groom Dr - \$176,000
6430 Hazel Av - \$180,000
3218 Humphrey Av - \$176,000
4400 Jenkins Wy - \$110,000
835 Kern St - \$210,000
3131 Lake View Ct - \$225,000
2875 McBryde Av - \$214,000
1207 Melville Sq #417 - \$175,000
2126 Ohio Av - \$205,000
1321 Pk Central Ct - \$215,000
58 Pkview Tr - \$157,000
1300 Quarry Ct #107 - \$251,000
1301 Quarry Ct #407 - \$382,000
2527 Rheem Av - \$185,000
2640 Ridge Rd - \$83,500
1643 San Benito St - \$187,500
1820 San Benito St - \$215,000
124 South 4th St - \$70,000
97 Southwind Cl - \$405,000
16th St - \$254,500

SAN LEANDRO

1507 136th Av #5 - \$115,000
1510 165th Av - \$227,500
1219 Ardmore Dr - \$329,000
898 Begonia Dr - \$355,000
1024 Burkhardt Av - \$225,000
1400 Carpentier St #319 - \$140,000

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$621,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$750,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$685,750

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 30
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 70,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$405,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$205,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$203,033

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 115,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,000,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 246,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 299,271

SOURCE: TITLETECH

1700 Daniels Dr - \$1,000,000
400 Davis St #212 - \$181,000
15177 Discovery Rd - \$350,000
15368 Edgemoor St - \$205,000
3525 Figueroa Dr - \$171,500
15301 Inverness St - \$299,000
14975 Lark St - \$210,000
2007 Liberty Wy - \$428,000
1456 Lucia Ct - \$246,000
16292 Lyle St - \$285,000
490 Millstream Dr - \$300,000
1460 Oriole Av - \$164,000
1663 Pacific Av - \$275,000
2332 Riverside Ct - \$429,500
15202 Shining Star Ln - \$428,000
1003 Tulane Av - \$209,000
1459 View Dr - \$400,000
795 Woodgate Dr - \$210,000

SAN LORENZO

742 Videll St - \$227,500
17521 Wickman Pl - \$142,000
17631 Wickman Pl - \$147,500

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes. All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233 or TitleNotes@aol.com.

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Mortgage

FROM PAGE B1

...host, are also the authors of "Homebuying for Dummies." Both books are part of the popular "For Dummies" reference series by IDG Books Worldwide, which takes complex subjects and translates them into an easy-to-understand terms.

The \$19.99 paperback, a no-nonsense, often-angry tell-it-like-it-is guide, got excellent endorsements upon its release this winter, including one from syndicated estate columnist Robert J.

Here's what some East Bay lenders have to say about the authors' "Ten Mortgage No-Nos" chapters.

1. Don't let lenders tell you what you can afford

Unless you have known your loan officer or mortgage broker for a long time and are confident he or she understands the intricacies of your lifestyle and spending habits, be prepared to decide for yourself how much you are comfortable borrowing, say the authors.

"I agree," says Rick Olson, president of Diablo Funding Inc., which has offices in Brentwood, Danville, San Ramon and Walnut Creek. "Lenders will let you overextend yourself."

"Some people are willing, and capable, of living for their mortgage," says Olson. Others are not. A good mortgage broker or loan officer will ask you a lot of questions about your lifestyle and how comfortable you will be with the proposed mortgage payment, he says.

2. Never confuse loan prequalification with preapproval

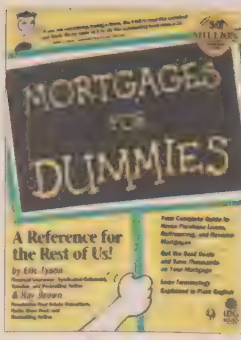
"Getting prequalified for a mortgage isn't tough. Heck, even bank tellers can get themselves prequalified. And therein lies the problem," according to "Mortgages for Dummies."

Olson agrees. "The problem is our business is very lucrative, so that some of the people in it will tell you anything," he says. It is a rare borrower who is really "prequalified." Once in a while, I am 100 percent sure that approval is going to be a no-brainer, and I don't need to take it any further. But most often, I take it upon myself to submit the file (to the lender) and issue a formal approval."

3. Don't reflexively grab a fixed-rate mortgage

"Some people opt for fixed-rate mortgages because these mortgages have been around longer than adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs), and compared to ARMs, fixed-rate loans are easier to understand. Unfortunately, that means some people are using the wrong criteria to select their mortgage loan." — Mortgages for Dummies

Right again, says Chris George, president of CMG Mortgage Inc., based in San Ramon: "Buying a house and getting a mortgage is an enormous prospect, especially for first-



time buyers, so a lot of people say: 'Let's take the variables out of the experience and get a fixed-rate loan.'"

In general, George says, many consumers don't understand the dynamics of the mortgage business, which leads to confusion over what type of loan to choose. "They don't understand that, on average, people change loans every 38 months, that interest rates tend to cycle every three to four years, that political factors and election years tend to affect rates," he says.

Reflexively choosing a fixed-rate loan is what Petaluma homeowner Ray Vendetti says he and his wife, Pam, did when they bought their first house on the East Coast eight years ago.

"It was an overwhelming choice back then, so we just did what we thought was right and got a fixed-rate," says Vendetti, who works in Concord as general manager for a national insurance company.

But a year later, after paying the points and other costs associated with his fixed-rate loan, the Vendettis were relocated. They wisely chose an ARM that time, and once again when they moved a few months ago.

The couple's loan officer, Jill Lyons of CMG Mortgage, took one look at their history and said she wouldn't recommend anything but an ARM, says Vendetti.

Statistics show again and again that most people don't live in their houses long enough to make a fixed-rate loan the wise choice, says

George. To make the right decision, consumers need to do research and think about the future, not just the present, he says.

"Log on to the Internet and see how the (ARMs) rate compares to others out there," he advises.

George also points out that history has proven that few ARMs have ever reached their actual life-cap rate.

Olson agrees that many consumers choose fixed-rate mortgages based on confusion and misconceptions.

"Why would you pay 30-year money when you're not going to be there for 30 years?" Olson asks, adding that he has never had anything but an ARM loan.

Death, job relocation, the desire to remodel or add a pool — all of these factors drive people to refinance or move more often than they tend to predict.

"Half the people I sit down with will get divorced," says Olson, "which usually means the house will be sold."

4. Watch out for mortgage brokers with hidden agendas

"Thousands of lenders out there would love to help you get financing. Many of them are mediocre, a few are good and an even smaller number are great." — Mortgages for Dummies

Could your lender be trying to talk you into a loan just because he or she will earn a bigger commission? It is a possibility, says Olson: "It does happen. If I were a consumer, I would look for a loan officer or broker who is asking me what I want out of life. If a customer doesn't understand a more complicated loan, they shouldn't be pushed into it. They should give you scenarios and then ask you what you think about it."

5. Avoid loans with prepayment penalties

Olson does not agree with this advice all of the time, especially since some lenders will waive the prepayment penalty upon sale of the property, he says. If borrowers have prepayment penalties in their loans, they may have to pay thousands of dollars to the lenders if they

repay the loans early, usually stipulated as within three or four years.

There are basically two types of borrowers who get this type of mortgage, says Olson: people who have credit issues and have no choice, and people with good credit who choose a loan with a prepayment penalty so they can get a lower rate.

Some lenders, such as First Nationwide, for example, have a clause in their note that says if the borrower sells the house, he or she will not have to pay the penalty. Other lenders may waive the penalty if you agree to use them on your next mortgage loan.

6. Avoid mortgage life insurance

"We strongly urge you not to purchase either mortgage life insurance or mortgage disability insurance. Low-cost, high-quality term life insurance and long-term disability insurance are far better solutions to these insurance needs." — Mortgages for Dummies

Olson is even more blunt: "It's absolutely stupid. Don't do it."

7. Steer clear of toxic 125 percent home-equity loans

Most often obtained to consolidate credit-card debt, these loans convert unused credit-card debt to mortgage debt, which means if you don't make payments the bank can foreclose on your property — a bad risk, says the "Mortgages for Dummies" authors. Also, they add, many consumers will go out and run up the same credit-card account balances and end up in even worse financial shape.

However, some lending experts, Olson included, say this type of loan could be useful if a person were using the home-equity loan to remodel their house, and knew the property would be worth enough when the work was finished to make the loan sensible. "If you're using the loan to create equity, that is a different story,

and I have seen that work many times," says Olson.

8. Shun adjustable-rate mortgages with negative amortization

"Negative amortization has the potential to be a personal financial neutron bomb. It destroys the borrower without harming the property. If you're offered an ARM with negative amortization, emphatically say: NO!" — Mortgages for Dummies

Not necessarily so again, says Olson. But the negative-amortization loan must be tied to a historically slow-moving index such as the Cost of Funds Index (COFI) or the Cost of Savings Index (COSI). Negative amortization is also referred to as "deferred interest" because the monthly payment on these types of loans is not large enough to cover their interest charges, so the balance of a loan actually grows. Olson points out that some of these loans are actually good because the borrower has the option to pay a lower payment when he needs to, and pay more when he can afford it.

"For instance, a painter whose work is tied to the weather and makes less money during the rainy season might benefit from a loan like this," Olson says. Thus, he says, the painter could make a lower house payment during the off-season, and make additional payments during the peak season when cash flow is higher.

9. Don't let the 2 percent rule bully you when refinancing

The 2 percent rule is an old rule that helps borrowers determine how fast they will recover the cost of refinancing. The rule's theory is that there must be at least a 2 percent age-point difference between your old loan and new loan to make refinancing sensible. The rule also refers to the fact that with a two-point spread, borrowers will recover their

loan cost within two years. Many experts now agree with "Mortgages for Dummies" and say this rule should be considered as only a general guideline. If you have no plans to sell your home within the next few years, and it will take a little longer than two years to recover your cost, refinancing may be worthwhile, they say.

"It's a pretty good rule of thumb," says Olson, adding that even if a homeowner isn't planning to move, he or she should not refinance if it will take more than five years to recover the cost.

10. Don't assume all reverse-mortgage programs are the same or bad

These loans are referred to as "reverse mortgages" because they allow homeowners 62 and older to convert a portion of their equity into cash without having to sell the house or take out a home-equity loan. The "Mortgages for Dummies" authors say reverse mortgages are sometimes a good option, but Olson warns against such loans.

"You're giving away equity," he says. "You might as well go get a line of credit and invest it in the stock market."

Depending on the loan program, he says, the lender could actually receive possession of your house when you die. The loans represent a case of what you don't know can hurt you, say the financial experts.

Yet all of these potential mistakes can be avoided by working with a seasoned loan officer. Use someone you have worked well with in the past, or who was referred to you by someone you trust, says George. "All loan officers need to listen carefully to what their clients are trying to accomplish."

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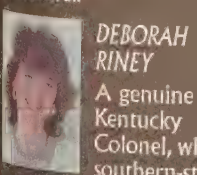
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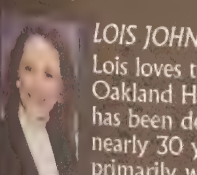
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Checklist makes water heater repair, replacement a snap

According to the U.S. plumbing industry, Americans replace nearly 7 million water heaters each year. A few water heaters are recycled, but most are dumped when they show signs of weakness at 10 years or so.

Not all of the expensive, bulky appliances belong in the dump. Before you administer last rites and consign your water heater to the landfill, do one final check:

If your water heater is leaking, be sure it's not leaking from the top connections. Check for leaks in any plumbing that runs above or near the tank, and check for a leaking temperature and pressure valve. These items can be fixed without need of a new heater, unless the leaking has occurred for so long that the top of the tank has rusted.

If the water heater is sitting in a pool of water, consider the weather. If you observe this condition during a storm, wait until the storm passes and check again. The pooling might be accumulated ground water, not a leaky water heater.

If indeed your water heater is leaking from the bottom and a new one is required, carefully consider how you want to proceed with a replacement. Being forced to replace your heater in an emergency and choosing the wrong installer can cost you as much as \$1,000 for a 50-gallon heater. It's worth a small amount of your time to choose wisely.

Types of water heaters

If you've been satisfied with the quantity of hot water your old heater produced, you may simply want to buy a replacement tank heater. If you consistently need more water than your current water heater is providing, you can move to the next size of tank. A 50-gallon heater is adequate for most residential installations.

If ground water is a concern, consider installing your heater on a raised platform. If clearance is a problem, you can use a "shorty" style heater.

While the vast majority of water heaters in this area are the standard tank system, there are other options

Home Front



By
**Arlene
Baxter**

"Without this information, receiving a quote on the phone is meaningless..."

to consider.

■ **Tankless heaters** can be very appealing if you have reasonably low demand and would like to conserve space. But they cannot handle high demand from multiple sources, such as running a bath while running a load of dishes.

This type of water heater is very popular in Europe and Japan, but seems not to have caught on as much here. As Larry Weingarten, author of "The Water Heater Workbook" put it: "One must adjust to tankless heaters. Americans are used to tank-type heaters, which normally function without a thought from their users."

■ **Solar water heater systems** are designed to be either active or passive. Active systems require an active component, such as a pump or fan to help collect the heat; passive systems do not.

Ideal features

If, after considering other options a replacement tank water heater seems best for you, check to see if it has these features, which would constitute the "ideal" water heater:

■ **An insulation rating of R-16 or better.**

■ **An easily accessible anode rod.** Some newer heaters make it easy to find the hex-head of the rod by placing it under a plastic lid. If you intend to maintain your new heater (as opposed to assuming you'll just replace it after 10 or 13 years) then choose a heater that has the anode accessible. You will want to check the progress of its deterioration every

PERMIT POWER:

■ Permits to replace a water heater are required throughout the Bay Area. Fees below are based on typical installations. Contact your city to inquire about special circumstances which may apply.

three to five years, and replace it as necessary. This should significantly extend the life of your tank.

■ **A curved dip tube.** This is an easily changed part, so if the heater you most like does not have a curved dip tube, plan on replacing it with one. The curved dip tube is longer than the factory-supplied style, allowing it to displace more hot water from the bottom of the tank. The curve also allows for sediment to be swept around the bottom of the tank, and easy to flush out.

■ **A ball valve at the drain.** Most tanks come equipped with a plastic drain that can easily leak, and is small. Change out the drain valve to a ball-valve style. This combination of curved dip tube and large, easy-to-operate ball valve will make it simple and effective to flush sediment from your heater on an annual basis. This also will prolong the life of your tank.

Consider placing a metal drip pan under the water heater, ideally with a drain to a location where the water can drain with impunity. A drain pan could protect items stored nearby from getting soaked if your heater leaks unexpectedly.

Once you've chosen the heater, have it installed by a reputable, licensed plumber. This is your most crucial choice. If you are considering maintaining the heater, be sure you choose a plumber who shares your desires. Most plumbers I asked

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■ Fee based on job cost.

routinely recommend replacement of heaters at 10 to 13 years. Few plumbers get involved with maintenance.

If you have checked your water heater annually, you should be in a position to proactively replace your heater, and should have the freedom to schedule the replacement when your favorite plumber is available.

Selecting a plumber

In selecting a plumber, start with recommendations from trusted friends and colleagues, as you probably would when seeking reliable professionals in any trade. Your Realtor should be able to provide you with names of their favorite contacts.

Choose a firm where the owner is closely involved with the installation, and would care about your satisfaction with the job. Be sure you choose a firm who will value repeat business.

Many plumbers are able to sell you the water heater as well as install it, though most firms handle only a limited number of brands.

If at all possible, get three quotes from reputable firms, and ask them to visit the site to be sure their bid is all-inclusive. Some firms work on a fixed quote, others work on a time-and-materials basis.

I spoke with several plumbing firms in the Berkeley-Oakland area, and found a consistent range of estimates of \$600 to \$750 to install a 50-gallon heater with a permit. This

is for a job where water lines are replaced, a new gas supply line is installed and the heater is properly strapped to resist earthquakes.

Be sure to ask for an itemized list of the parts that are routinely included in a fixed quote for installation.

Without this information, receiving a quote on the phone is meaningless. Make sure the installation charge includes the removal of the old heater.

Make sure the plumber you choose is familiar with your city's

particular requirements. Also, locations and installation details from city to city.

Now that you've given us a look at your water heater, better looking out for its well-being. Don't treat yourself to a relaxing soak or shower? You've earned it.

Arlene Baxter is a real estate writer with the Berkeley Office of the California Real Estate Board. Call 510-433-9816 or e-mail baxter@pobox.com.

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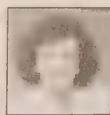
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
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
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Section C

Soccer Mavericks back in step after winter layoff [C2]

Arts Now featuring movie listings and mini reviews [C4]

Berkeley all smiles after beating Mitty

Jackets play fantastic game to avenge last year's loss and reach Div. I state finals

By Peter Mentor

SACRAMENTO — The Yellowjackets were singing and smiling on their way down the hall to the press conference.

Into the room walked the Berkeley High School girls basketball team — the newly crowned Northern California Division I champions.

It was a joyous affair with the players joking and laughing. The Jackets had just avenged their disheartening loss from last year to this same Monarch team with a ferocious 63-61 comeback victory over defending state champion Archbishop Mitty of San Jose.

The Northern California final, held last Saturday night at the Arco Arena, was the closest of games — one of Berkeley's two winning points came on a technical foul because Mitty had entered a player with the wrong jersey number. It was a matchup between two of the most evenly matched teams in high school basketball.

It could just as easily have been Mitty doing the singing, but it wasn't. The Monarchs sat dejected just minutes before,

"That was a glorious feeling. My heart just fell to my throat. I just told myself, we are not going to lose this game."

—Robin Roberson

tears welling to the surface of their eyes. Berkeley moved into the same seats and held high the crown it had held just two years ago.

There were so many close calls and near misses, it was a shame either team had to lose. But someone did and now Berkeley gets a second chance at beating Southern California winner Narbonne, the same team that beat Berkeley two years ago for the state title.

See BERKELEY, Page C2



BERKELEY AISHA HOLLANS (23) keeps the ball away from Mitty's Alison Sandman (35) at the NorCal final Saturday night



BERKELEY'S ERICA MCGLASTON, left, and Robin Roberson, right, celebrate after winning the CIF Northern California Regional Division I girls basketball championship at the Arco Arena in Sacramento Saturday.

Jackets shoot for state title

No. 13 Berkeley faces nation's best in No. 1 Narbonne

PREVIEW

Who: Berkeley (29-2) vs. Narbonne (33-0)

What: Division I State Championship.

When: Saturday 6 p.m.

Where: Arco Arena, Sacramento

By Peter Mentor

What kind of game is the CIF State Division I girls basketball championship going to be? Maybe the best girls hoops contest in the United States.

Berkeley High (29-2) is ranked No. 13 in the country by a USA Today poll, while Narbonne High (33-0) is the No. 1 team

See PREVIEW, Page C2

Panthers reeling after overtime loss

St. Mary's blows a 3-point lead with 10 seconds to play in NorCal semis

By Kurt Kloeblen

MODESTO — It may be 10 seconds that will haunt the St. Mary's High School boys basketball team for years.

A disastrous final 10 seconds of the fourth quarter sent the game to overtime, where No. 1 seed Modesto Christian downed the Panthers 83-75 in a California Interscholastic Federation Northern Region Division IV semifinal game Thursday night.

St. Mary's controlled the first three periods and most of the fourth quarter, outplaying the state's No. 1-ranked Division IV team.

But suddenly at the end of the game, things went awry. After Crusaders guard Richard Midgely hit one of two free throws to cut the Panthers lead to 68-65 with 13 seconds to go, all St. Mary's had to do was wait for a Modesto Christian foul to possibly wrap up the game.

St. Mary's point guard DaShawn Freeman beat the Crusaders' press, then to everyone's surprise threw an alley-oop pass to Ebon Glenn, who couldn't convert the shot. The Crusaders got the rebound and called timeout with six seconds left.

Midgely, who had only one point up until that point, got the ball on the in-

"This is a real heartbreaker. The guy just threw up a prayer and it went in."

—DaShawn Freeman

bounds pass. Guarded by two defenders, Midgely pulled up at the 3-point line and sank a jumper as time expired to tie the game. A foul was called against St. Mary's.

Midgely's game-tying basket caused bedlam in the Modesto Christian gym. After calm was restored, Midgely went to the line and missed what could have been the winning free throw, forcing the game into overtime.

The Crusaders (32-4) dominated the overtime from the opening tip. Center

Chuck Hayes scored four of his team's first six points in the extra period as Modesto Christian opened a 74-68 lead. Hayes finished with a game-high 35 points.

The closest St. Mary's got in overtime was 78-75 after a Chase Moore layup with 45 seconds to go. The Crusaders wrapped up the game by making four free throws while the Panthers kept missing shots.

See ST. MARY'S, Page C2

ROUNDUP

Gaucha nine dusts Emery

McBride's 4 RBI, dinger do the trick

Staff report

EL CERRITO — Joe McBride had four RBI, including a three-run home run in the third inning, as El Cerrito High School dusted Emery 13-4 in nonleague baseball Tuesday afternoon.

McBride finished 2-for-3, as did Dominic Mejia, who had a triple and three RBI.

Ken Hirose had a single and double in four trips and finished with two RBI. David Rose doubled, drove in a run and stole three bases as El Cerrito improved to 2-0.

Emery fell to 0-2.

Boys golf

LIVERMORE — Chris MacDonald shot a 1-under-par 35 at Las Positas Golf Course to lead Livermore (5-1, 2-1) to a 197-243 East Bay Athletic League win over Berkeley (0-3).

Ivan Homes shot a 37 for the Yellowjackets. Livermore golfers Jake Fahnhorst, Josh Cokenes, Adam Birdwell and Mike Gallina had the next four best scores at 39, 40, 41 and 42, respectively.

Curran Kennedy finished at 48 for the Yellowjackets. Teammates Walker Koppleman-Brown, Ronald Quinterez and Adam Silber finished at 49, 51 and 58, respectively.

Boys tennis

Patrick Hamilton, Noah Farb, Nicky Baum and Nate Simmons all won singles matches for Berkeley High School's tennis team, which lost 5-4 to Foothill.

Hamilton took the second singles 6-4, 6-1 over Scott Fischer. Farb won the No. 3 singles over Jimmy Tran 2-6, 7-6

See ROUNDUP, Page C2

EC baseball seeks batting cage money

High school, youth teams to benefit

Staff Report

The El Cerrito baseball community is trying to raise money to build a batting cage for the high school and youth baseball teams.

Parent volunteers of El Cerrito Youth Baseball are asking for help from the public in raising the money for the batting cage, which is going to be located on the El Cerrito High School campus.

ECYB is beginning construction of the cyclone fence batting cage near the baseball diamond at the high school.

The high school teams and El Cerrito Youth Baseball will share the cage. The teams already share the city fields.

Several thousand dollars are needed to build the cage. The cyclone fencing alone is expected to run about \$3,500.

The high school and school district have endorsed the project and will be helping out with some minor funding from the Maintenance and Recreation Assessment District funds.

The City of El Cerrito is helping with the initial preparation, which involves the use of a backhoe. That phase of construction has been delayed because of the heavy rains and wet field conditions.

This will be the first permanent-structure batting cage in El Cerrito. It will be a double cage, which will enhance practice time and allow players to stay off wet fields.

The baseball teams are hoping to have enough money raised so that the project can be completed by the end of April.

Check can be made payable to El Cerrito Youth Baseball Batting Cages, and sent to P.O. Box 194 El Cerrito, CA 94530. For further information contact Kevin Berndt at 525-0644.

Berkeley

FROM PAGE C1

This last game, however, is worth celebrating for a while longer. What the Jackets had just done on the Arco Arena court was amazing. They were ahead 32-21 with about 90 seconds to go in the first half, then found themselves on the opposite side of a 23-9 run that began at the middle of the second quarter and went well into the third.

Berkeley entered the fourth quarter trailing by two points. The Jackets regained the lead 52-51 on an pair of Aisha Hollans free throws, but Mitty used an 8-4 run to take its biggest lead of the game at 59-54 with 2:49 left.

The whole season — all the hopes and dreams — came down to the final two and a half minutes. Berkeley called a timeout and coach Gene Nakamura talked to his girls.

"I said, 'Hey, do you want this game?' " said Nakamura to his players. "It was one of those games where the team with the last surge would win it."

Berkeley surged. The Jackets went inside the paint, knowing the Monarchs had four players in foul trouble.

Robin Roberson came up huge when her team needed her. Roberson scored from eight feet out to start an 8-0 Berkeley run that would bring them to the state final. Hollans was fouled and she hit one of two from the line to pull her team to within two.

Then it was Roberson's turn again. She went back to the free stripe when Mitty's Jenna Green fouled out of the game. Roberson hit both shots and that tied it at 59-59 with 2:13 left.

Roberson was fouled again at 1:39. She sank her first shot, then Mitty took a timeout to break her concentration and set up a play depending on the scenario. Roberson nailed her second shot anyway, giving Berkeley a 61-59 lead, which the team held for good.

"That was a glorious feeling," said Roberson. "My heart just fell to my throat. I just told myself, we are not going to lose this game."

But there was still plenty of time for anything to happen and it seemed like everything happened.

Brush with fate

The turning point of the game — or at least one of many crucial occurrences — came next. Mitty star Rometra Craig missed a shot with Angelita Hutton in her face. Sabrina Keys grabbed the rebound for Berkeley and the Jackets went into a set offense on the other end of the floor.

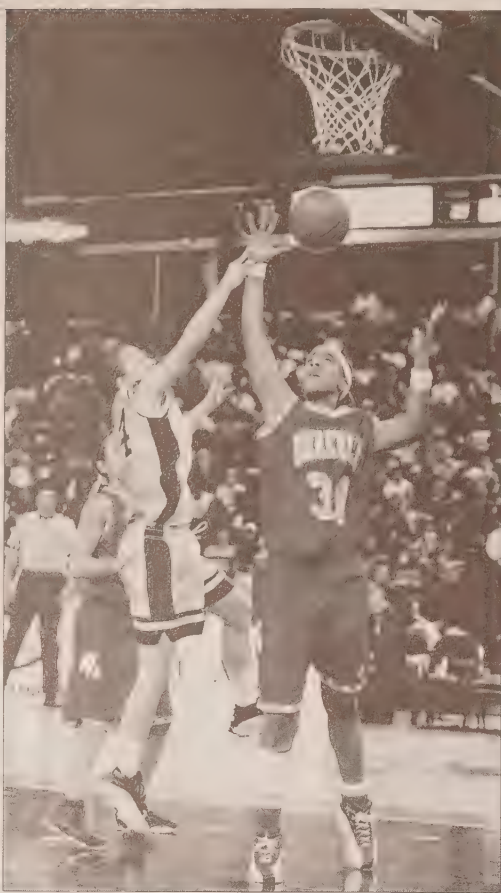
Time wound down, a pass went into the corner, a shot went up with the shot clock quickly approaching zero and the ball sailing through the air toward the rim. The shot clock violation buzzer went off, as one referee said time had expired, but another referee said he witnessed the ball change direction.

"He saw it change in rotation," said Nakamura of the referee's call concerning the ball touching the rim. "To me it was no question."

What made it so important was that Berkeley got the rebound and a fresh shot clock with 36.3 seconds left in the game. The officials changed the clock back to 37.1 seconds and the delay to sort all that out was over.

Mitty knew it had to foul and Berkeley put the ball into the hands of its star Hollans. She was fouled and hit the first of her two shots, but she missed the second and the lead was three.

Berkeley's Erica McGlaston fouled Mitty's Kristin Iwanaga, who hit both



BERKELEY'S SABRINA KEYS (34) defends against Mitty's Kristin Iwanaga (24) at the CIF regional championship game Saturday.

her free throws at 62-61. Then, almost immediately, the Monarchs fouled again with 19.1 seconds.

Chew on this

When McGlaston went to the line, Nakamura turned his back to the court, put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a stick of gum. He didn't turn around, but instead watched the crowd reaction. McGlaston sank her first shot at 63-61, then she missed her second.

Mitty had two more chances to either tie or win the game and both times they came up with a little help from the officials.

The first time came when Keys forced a jump ball with guard Aimee Grzyb with 11.6 seconds. The referee then changed that jump call to a timeout for Mitty, saying Grzyb had made the request before Keys had tied her up. McGlaston nearly stole the inbound pass after the timeout, but Mitty retained possession and both Iwanaga and Craig got shots off. Each missed.

Keys got a hand on the ball one more time, but it went out of bounds. Mitty had .7 seconds to get the ball in and get a shot off. Impossible one would think, but the ball came in to Craig and she shot a 3-pointer that hit the rim after the buzzer. Had it gone in who knows what the call would have been, but it didn't fall so it didn't matter.

Chaos ensued. Berkeley players jumped on each other, medals were given out, the winning plaque was handed to Berkeley and the trip to the state finals was theirs.

Nakamura carried the plaque over to the Berkeley cheering section and

held it high. The Jackets, ranked 13th in the USA Today national poll and No. 3 in California by Cal-Hi Sports, had beaten the No. 14 national ranked Monarchs, who were actually ranked No. 2 in the state by Cal-Hi. The rankings showed that the teams were interchangeable.

Berkeley now plays Southern California winner Narbonne High of Harbor Bay in the final Saturday night at 6 at the Arco Arena (see related story).

No matter what happens in that game no one can take away the joy of this win over Mitty that avenged the loss in this same game last year.

STATS: Hollans finished with 24 points, 11 rebounds and 12 of 17 shooting from the line. Roberson scored 19 points and had 11 rebounds. She knocked down 7 of 9 from the line. Keys scored 10 points and had 14 rebounds, nine of her cars coming on defense.

Angelita Hutton (five points) had the unenviable task of guarding Craig. When Hutton was asked about it at the press conference she just shrugged and said it was just an assignment. Nakamura said Hutton's eyes popped out of her head when she learned she would guard the Monarchs star.

Hutton did an excellent job on defense. Even though Craig ended up with 23 points, she missed 23 of 31 shots, including her last four at the end of the fourth quarter. Grzyb scored 20 for Mitty, but no one else was in double figures.

McGlaston and Celeste Jenkins scored two points apiece, while Nicole Brown had one point, with every point being crucial to beat Mitty.

ACC Mavericks return to soccer pitch with a punch

Team wins first tournament, prepares for State Cup

Staff report

With little time to catch their breaths after a demanding winter season of high school soccer, members of the ACC Mavericks under-16 boys team were back on the pitch for their club at the 28th annual Gerald Badella Memorial Soccer Tournament in Fresno, Feb. 26-27.

Perhaps the quick turnaround was good for the Mavericks. They were in gear, well-tuned and showed no signs of rust as they rolled to the tournament championship behind a win and two draws.

The title was the second tournament championship this season for the Mavericks, who also went undefeated in regular-season play.

Ahead for the Mavericks is the Nomads College Showcase in San Diego, March 17-19. That tournament will feature some of the best teams in the country. After that, the Mavericks will open California Youth Soccer Association-North State Cup competition April 1-2 in Antioch. First-round opposition for the Mavericks will be the Sacramento United Revolution, the Antioch Delta Force and Juventus United. Teams advancing from the preliminaries will play in the round of 16 April 8-9. Quarterfinals follow April 15-16 and semifinals April 22-23.

In addition, six Mavericks players have received invitations to try out for the Olympic Development Program.

Before looking too far ahead, though, the Badella Tournament — while successful for the Mavericks — wasn't completely satisfying.

ACC's championship match against the Turlock Arsenal was a disappointment. Yes, Mavericks forward Tiago Venturi scored on a free kick at 10 minutes, then netted a second goal eight minutes later off a throw-in from

Liam Reilly.

But at 22 minutes, lightning flashed in the sky. When the weather reporter from a local television station advised tournament directors of a tornado alert, the referee suspended play. Ultimately, the match was declared a "non-game" and the Mavericks declared tournament champion.

The tournament got off to a promising start a day earlier when the Mavericks opened with a 1-1 draw against the local powerhouse and tournament favorite Fresno Cyclone. The Cyclone entered the tournament having won four straight tournaments. ACC helped see it that the Cyclone wouldn't take a fifth.

ACC's Amadeo Alvarez surprised the hosts by scoring on a free kick at 15 minutes. Fresno equalized five minutes later but could do no more. Despite playing all out to defeat the Mavericks, who played shorthanded after Alvarez got red-carded in a physical contest, the Cyclone could not break through for a second goal and had to settle for a draw.

The Cyclone ultimately paid a price for their pedal-to-the-metal style against the Mavericks, as they fell apart in their second match 5-1.

The Mavericks, perhaps buoyed by withstanding the Cyclone's surge while at a disadvantage, went on to defeat the N.W. Oaks Arsenal 4-0. N.W. Oaks had advanced after earlier beating the always-strong San Juan Force 1-0. But the Arsenal was no match for the Mavericks, who enjoyed a 4-0 win.

Bryan Warren of St. Mary's High School scored the first goal in the 16th minute off a pass from Ben Blake. Reilly made it 2-0 off a pass from Daniel Perez at 37 minutes.

The Mavericks continued their dominance in the second half as Billy Lemus came off the bench to score

two goals off Blake.

Given the rain-soaked matches, the Mavericks' success as they returned to the pitch after a long morning of rain was a fine second-half performance. Mavericks to capture the title.

The Force, having shown signs of their opening loss, seemed to be scoring in the first 10 minutes.

Very seldom does a team from such a shocking loss as the Mavericks did, as they pushed their push to get back into the game.

First, Orrin Smith got the box for a penalty kick at 10 minutes. Jack Beran converted the kick, but the Mavericks' win seemed to turn momentum in their favor.

Just two minutes later, Beran scored off a pass from Perez to make the score at 2-2.

Throughout the second half, Juan pushed its defense in a desperate attempt to score. Juan would not score, but the Mavericks' win seemed to turn momentum in their favor.

The ACC Mavericks' success in Berkeley was a Kennedy, St. Mary's and Antioch schools, which play in the well as Head-Royce and Juventus, which play all schedules.

The team is coached by Juarez, who also coaches Berkeley High boys varsity team.

ETC: The Mavericks' success in Berkeley was a Kennedy, St. Mary's and Antioch schools, which play in the well as Head-Royce and Juventus, which play all schedules.

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St. Mary's

FROM PAGE A1

"This is a real heartbreaker," said Freeman, who finished with 18 points and six assists for St. Mary's (26-7). "The guy just threw up a prayer and it went in."

Moore led St. Mary's with 20

points, Kellen Dixon had 15 points and center Victor Venters scored 10.

For the Crusaders, it was the inside game that was strong all night. Along with Hayes' 35 points, forward Brad Watkins added 24.

The Panthers rolled to a 21-12 lead after one quarter, holding Hayes scoreless. St. Mary's pushed the lead to as much as 14 in both the second

and third quarters, and led 19-12 into the final period.

"Right now we're reeling," Freeman said. "When we look back, we can't believe what we did."

Hayes, a 6-foot-7 center, 12 of his 35 in the fourth quarter shot with 25 seconds left in the game to cut the gap to 66-63.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Soccer

Mavericks Soccer tryouts are being held at the following times and places:

March 19, Sunday, in Berkeley at Fielding Field, end of 5th St. off Gilman Street: 12 p.m. Under-14 girls, 2 p.m. Under-11 girls, 4 p.m. Under-12 girls.

Tryouts at Eastshore Park, now called Booker T. Anderson Park (off 47th St. & Cypress) in Richmond/San Pablo area, are at the following times:

9 a.m. Under-13 girls, 9 a.m. Under-11 boys, 11 a.m. Under-12 boys, 1 p.m. Under-13 boys, 3 p.m. Under-14 boys.

March 26, Sunday: Tryouts Booker T. Anderson Park (off 47th St. & Cypress) in Richmond/San Pablo area, are at the following times: 1 p.m. Under-17 boys, 3 p.m. Under-18/19 boys (that's all for this weekend).

REMEMBER: For all tryouts, check the rainout number to make sure the fields are open and tryouts are happening at 655-8500.

The High School Premier Camp will take place at St. Mary's College in Moraga, April 24-25, designed for high school players 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every day.

The camp will be trained by the St. Mary's college coaches, staff and players. The camp also offers seminars to discuss admission, recruitment and scholarships. \$120. For details, call 435-5400. Or apply by email: SMCcamp@stmarys.edu

Roundup

FROM PAGE C1

(8-6 tie-breaker). Baum was a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Jason Huk. Simmons defeated Huen Kuik 4-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Berkeley is 3-1 in the EBL while Foothill improved to 2-2.

Boys volleyball

Though Berkeley High School gave a fine effort, it fell short in a hard-fought 15-2, 4-15, 15-7, 12-15, 15-10 loss to James Logan in a nonleague match Tuesday.

Berkeley (5-2) received 12 kills, 17 digs and five blocks from D.Q. Li. Mason Chin added 16 kills and 11 digs for the Yellowjackets. Setter Luis Ramirez dished out 30 assists while adding six digs and two kills.

Logan improved to 3-0.

Girls softball

MORAGA — Kyle Kemp pitched the first three innings and picked up the win as Albany High School staved off a late charge to beat Campolindo

6-4.

Albany scored all its runs in the top of the first inning. For Albany, the win

was an efficient one. Albany's eight hits to Campolindo's five hits resulted in no errors to Campolindo.

Preview

FROM PAGE C1

in the United States in the same poll.

With all that talent this is bound to be a great one, but there are more twists to this thing than a pretzel.

Two years ago Berkeley was embarrassed when Narbonne (Harbor City) jumped out to a 29-point lead in the first half as the Gauchos made a mockery of the Yellowjackets' 30-win season. Narbonne went on to win the CIF State Division I girls basketball championship, 67-46 at the Arco Arena in Sacramento.

Later, it was the Gauchos who were embarrassed, having to vacate the state title because of ineligible players. Officially the title for 1998 was vacated and Berkeley High remained the runner-up. Nobody was too happy.

Now they met again when Berkeley and Narbonne tangle Saturday at 6 p.m. on the same Arco Arena floor where they met two years earlier.

The rematch has grown into an epic battle even before the jump ball is tossed. Both have something to prove. Narbonne wants its name in the history books with an undefeated and unblemished record, while Berkeley wants to avenge that loss and regain the title it won in 1997.

It won't be easy for either squad, but Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura sees his team as the challenger.

"We are definitely the underdog," said Nakamura. "We talk about how deep we are; they are deeper. We say we are talented and quick, they have more talent and are quicker. We try to

make people adjust to our game. We may have to make a few adjustments."

A little comparison shopping shows what the odds should be for Berkeley. The Yellowjackets beat SoCal runner-up Hanford by three points, 63-60, in a preseason tournament down in Santa Barbara in December. The Gauchos beat Hanford 69-40 in the Southern California Regional final last Saturday on the same day Berkeley was barely getting by Archbishop Mitty by two points, 63-61 in the NorCal Regional final.

Four Narbonne players scored in double figures in the SoCal final. Junior Loree Moore, who had a team-high 19 points and dished 10 assists, is also one of the best — if not the best — defenders in the nation.

Gauchos point guard Latasha O'Keith is headed to Cal on a full scholarship next fall. O'Keith added 14 points in the win over Hanford.

Narbonne has an All-American in Ebony Hoffman to match up with Berkeley's All-American Aisha Hollans. Hoffman was on the team two years ago when Narbonne beat Berkeley.

"She was on the team last time we played," said Nakamura of Hoffman and the '97 debacle. "She is 6-foot-2 and one of the top three interior players in the nation."

Hollans is no slouch. The Berkeley senior scored 24 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the victory over Mitty. Hollans also went 12 of 17 from the line, while Berkeley hit 28 of 38 for a .737 clip in that category.

One thing going for Berkeley is history in the big game. The Jackets have been there before and this is their fifth state championship final.

"We say we are talented and quick, they have more talent and are quicker."

—Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura

The Yellowjackets are 2-2 in state finals, winning state championships in 1991 and 1997, and losing in 1990 and 1998. Narbonne has been there once and there is no mention of this in the official state history book.

Redemption time

Last year Berkeley lost to eventual 1999 state champion Archbishop Mitty in the Northern California finals a year after beating the Monarchs 62-44 in the NorCal championship game of 1997.

Upon eliminating Berkeley, the Monarchs went on to a one-point win over SoCal winner Palisades High to take the 1999 state title. The Jackets could only watch from the stands.

This season the Jackets got their revenge on Mitty in the NorCal finals. Now Berkeley gets another shot at Narbonne for a chance to avenge that loss from two years ago.

Can Berkeley win this game? "I personally think they're beatable," said Nakamura. "We were aiming for Mitty — you had to go after Mitty to get there — but we were not thinking 'Oh my god we have to play them.' We want to play them."

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Arts



BILL MANN
Media Notes

East Bay radio station celebrates 75th

Most of you probably don't know — and I'd forgotten — that the Bay Area's top-rated and most profitable radio station, KGO (810 AM) started in Oakland. And newstalk KGO, the No. 1-ranked station here for 23 years running, is celebrating its 75th birthday this weekend with special programming.

KGO started in the mid-1920s by broadcasting from a studio on 14th Street in Oakland. The General Electric Building was an imposing, two-story brick structure — the first U.S. building KGO says, ever constructed specifically to house a radio station. (Radio was in its infancy then, of course.)

KGO, which moved to San Francisco after World War II, was originally owned by G.E. and was part of NBC's Blue network. Among its more popular shows was one that was broadcast nationally by NBC from Oakland, the snappy-sounding "Johnny O'Brien and His Harlequins High Hats." (Think of it as early hip-hop.) Walter Winchell and the Metropolitan Opera were other staples.

GE eventually sold to NBC, which, in turn, sold to its current owner, ABC. In 1954, the station moved to 277 Golden Gate in San Francisco, where it remained until moving to 900 Front Street in San Francisco a decade ago. To celebrate its 75th, KGO is bringing in tiresome radio relic and NRA shill Paul Harvey, who knew Marconi personally. This weekend, the big 50,000-watt station also marks the 20th anniversary of its favorite charity by broadcasting its annual Leukemia Cure-a-Thon.

The thon starts tonight at 7 p.m., runs 24 hours, and concludes Saturday evening with a funny annual "Cur" that hosts Ronn Owens and Ray Bialero will have been doing for years. The Cure-a-Thon — a telethon on radio — has raised \$6.5 million over two decades, and will probably raise another \$500,000 or so this weekend for the worthy cause.

At around 7 tomorrow near the sign-off, Owens will say something like, "We've already raised \$100,000, Ray. It's enough." Taliaferro, his voice rising in evangelical fervor, will reply, "No, Ronn! It's not enough!"

This shuck will go on for a while, and each time, Mr. T's voice will go up a notch and you almost expect to hear gospel music begin. By the end, Taliaferro will be semi-hoarse. It's a good way to raise last-minute cash and, truth be told, is one of the few things about the otherwise worthwhile radiothon that's entertaining.

Not long ago, I asked KGO Radio General Manager Mickey Luckoff about why he started the Cure-a-Thon. "I lost my entire family to cancer," he replied, "even my dogs." With KGO turning in record profits as well as winning a Marconi Award as the country's top major station this year, Luckoff and Co. deserve a reason to celebrate this weekend.

Money Man: Also on hand for KGO weekend festivities in San Francisco on Saturday will be nationally syndicated financial talk-show host Bob Brinker, a guy so full of himself he's an irresistible target.

Know-it-all Brinker told his loyal listeners to pull most of their money out of the market in January, thus missing the remarkable recent Nasdaq run-up of stock prices.

Maybe market-timer Brinker will bring his holy relic, his Timing Model, with him to show his adoring fans at Expo KGO. He told listeners a couple of weeks ago that he doesn't include the Nasdaq in his convoluted Timing Model timing calculations, writing it off a "tech sector" — good call, Bob!

Plus, Brinker's always pushing his subscription newsletter on his weekend show, sometimes to the detriment of his listeners and for his own financial gain. When one caller last Sunday asked the name of a mutual fund Brinker had mentioned in his newsletter and was being well, Brinker weaseled around, wouldn't give the fund's name, and went into a commercial.

One KGO personality who WON'T be on hand, not surprisingly, is the deplorable Dr. Laura Schmeidler, who's still battling her comments about gays as (her account) to stop syndication of her radio TV show, which starts this fall and which KPX-TV has bought).

See MANN, Page C2



JERRY O'CONNELL watches as fellow astronauts Tim Robbins and Connie Nielsen dance in zero gravity in "Mission to Mars."

'Mission to Mars' crash-lands

Technical gadgets, special effects can't save movie from unlikely plot, simplistic dialogue

By Karen Hershenson

The creators of "Mission to Mars" make much of its technical accuracy, based on briefings with actual NASA experts.

I'm no rocket scientist, so I can't attest to that — much of it looked like a Lego construct to me. But all the fancy space gadgets and techno-babble can't make up for the movie's myriad flaws.

It's choppy and aimless, occa-

REVIEW

■ **What:** "Mission to Mars"

■ **Starring:** Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, Don Cheadle

■ **Rating:** PG (mild sci-fi action and peril, some sensuality and language)

■ **Running time:** 2 hours

■ **Where:** area theaters

■ **Grade:** D+

sionally dazzling, but more often smarmy, illogical and melodramatic. At times the audience laughed when it wasn't supposed to.

The film is director Brian De

Palma's first foray into sci-fi, and a clear signal that he should stick to the thrillers that made his career: "Carrie," "Dressed to Kill" and "Blow Out" among them.

Of course the two-time national science fair winner also made "Mission: Impossible," which is slightly more similar, and equally confusing. Both movies are so in love with their high-tech wizardry that everything else — plot development, character evolution, even common sense — falls by the wayside.

Leading the cast is the ever-intense Gary Sinise, as Mars-obsessed astronaut Jim McConnell. The year is 2020 (although you'd never know it; everything looks exactly the same as now) and a NASA team prepares for yet another Mars jaunt. The com-

mander is Luke (Don Cheadle), with McConnell among a ground crew that includes his space-bro, Woody, played by Tim Robbins.

After a year of routine research, the Mars gang encounters one of those humming desert phenomena, a cross between the monolith in "2001: A Space Odyssey" and the mountain that speaks in "Aladdin." Things do not go well, and NASA scrambles to pull together a rescue mission to investigate.

Even stranded on that barren red planet, you wouldn't want this crew coming after you. Talk about flawed. There's McConnell, who still hasn't passed his psych evaluations after losing his beloved wife, and Phil (Jerry

See MARS, Page C5

Brown's creativity can still amaze

A world premiere, other pieces illustrate choreographer's gift to create beautiful movement

By Anita Amirrezvani

Some choreographers throw a lot of razzle-dazzle into their work, loading it up with difficult movements, elaborate costumes and fancy sets.

But New York choreographer Trisha Brown, who has been making dances for more than 40 years, goes her own way with work that is spare, elegant, and deeply affecting.

Brown brought the West Coast premiere of an astonishing new work Friday, March 10, to UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Called "Canto/Pianto," the dance is derived from her fully staged production of Monteverdi's opera "L'Orfeo," which had its world premiere in Brussels in 1998.

From the very first moments of the dance, Brown's choreography is arrestingly inventive. The show opens with an enormous round window onto the stage. We see a flying figure (Katrina Thompson), who represents the character Musica. Thompson soars, whirls, cartwheels, dives head-first to the ground, and, through the magic of technology, the cables that suspend her in the air are completely invisible (we see them only later, during the bows).

All this is Musica's way of inviting

us to witness the story of Orpheus, who loses the beautiful Eurydice to the underworld not once, but twice. Brown's staging of these events — first, when Eurydice is bitten by a snake on her wedding day, and second, when Orpheus can't resist turning around to look at her — is spare and beautiful. There is hardly any set to speak of, and the costumes are simple. Instead, the dramatic action is suggested by wildly creative move-

See BROWN, Page C5

As a natural thriller, 'Gate' not quite super

By Karen Hershenson

Everything about "The Ninth Gate" sets you up for an intense supernatural thriller.

It's about the search for a demonic text. And between "Rosemary's Baby" and events in his own life, director Roman Polanski is forever linked with the dark side.

The big surprise is how subtle it is, an almost whimsical mystery with very few edge-of-your-seat moments. You don't realize you've been had, in a way, until the abrupt ending, which is a letdown after the suspense leading up to it.

Still, it doesn't matter, because the movie is so crisply done, with such class, that it keeps you engrossed.

Johnny Depp, who made such a hapless hero in Tim Burton's "Sleepy Hollow," does a repeat performance as Dean Corso, a rare-book expert thrust into dangerous intrigue when he's hired by a collector (Frank Langella) to find the two other existing copies of a demonic text, "The Nine Gates of the Kingdom of the Shadows."

REVIEW

■ **What:** "The Ninth Gate"

■ **Starring:** Johnny Depp, Frank Langella, Lena Olin

■ **Rating:** R (some language, sexuality)

■ **Running time:** 2 hours, 7 minutes

■ **Where:** Opens today at area theaters.

■ **Grade:** B-

This man, Boris Balkan, claims only one of the volumes is authentic, and will pay dearly to find out which.

The 17th-century text supposedly includes etchings by Lucifer himself, which, when properly interpreted, can unlock an entrance to the underworld. Judging by the number of people willing to kill to get it, this

See GATE, Page C2

HOT SHEET!

■ Oakland-based Shotgun Players presents Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters," which will show at 434 36th St., Oakland, through April 9. Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 7 p.m. on Sundays. Reid Davis directs. Call 510-655-0813

■ Saxophonist David Barrows will celebrate the release of his debut CD "House Music," at 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Friday, March 31, at Mr. E's Nightclub, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Cost \$10. Call 510-848-2009 or visit the Web site at www.HoundsofRenown.com

EVENTS



BAY AREA vocalist-songwriter Kimberlee has released her first CD, "Learning How to Love," which is available in area music stores. The 31-year-old soul-folk artist, a graduate of Mills College in Oakland, will perform in the East Bay in April. Check her Web site at kimberleemusic.com

The Golden Gate Geographic Society 2000 Travel Film Mini-Series—"Alaska!" This is the biggest, longest, widest, coldest and highest of the 50 states in the United States. Journey from Ketchikan and the "inside passage" to Kotzebue, Prudhoe Bay and the Pribilof Islands on this comprehensive tour of Alaska. Produced and presented in person by photographer Fran Reidelberger. March 25, 2 p.m., Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Tickets: \$8 general, \$4 children age 14 and under. Call 800-247-GGGS.

REI Berkeley—through March 28. A series of lectures on hikes and outdoors equipment.

■ "Treking in Pakistan," March 23, 7 p.m. A slide presentation by Ruth Anne Kocour and Elizabeth White Rassiga of their travels near regions torn by war and political unrest to explore remote sections of northern Pakistan.

■ "Map and Compass 101," March 28, April 1 and April 2. A lecture by wilderness guide Susan Thiele about the basics of route-finding for wilderness hiking, followed by field sessions at Mt. Diablo State Park. Registration required. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets: \$55 lecture and Saturday field session; \$20 additional Sunday field session. Free unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-527-4140.

Stitches Knitting Expo—March 17-March 19. This annual four-day event brings together knitting experts, novices and spectators along with designers, authors, educators and suppliers from around the world. The Expo offers 100 classes, seminars, workshops and demonstrations in addition to a marketplace with 100 booths selling mountains of colorful yarns as well as supplies, books and gadgets. There will be a fashion show featuring the latest garments from top hand-knitting designers. Pre-registration required for all classes, seminars and workshops. Tickets: \$6 general, free children age 10 and under. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Oakland Convention Center, 550 10th St., Oakland. Call 800-237-1099.

The Graduate Theological Union—"A Panel Discussion on Hannah Arendt," March 17, 3-5 p.m. The panel will discuss Arendt's contribution to the notion of public space and a civil society. The panel consists of Professors Martha Storz, Clare Fischer and Don Compier, with Joseph Lough. Part of the Center of

See EVENTS, Page C5



GARY T. and his Poet Tree will perform during "Vaudeville for Kids," the Bay Area Children's Theatre Co.'s event at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at John Muir Elementary School, 2955 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. Cost \$10 adults, \$5 children 2-12 years old. Call 510-762-2277.

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change.
Call theaters for information.

Compiled by: CinemaSource

★ Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, March 17

Alameda County

Act I & II
Center St. off Shattuck, Berkeley 843-FILM
● **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai** (R) 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
● **Thelma** (R) 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

Albany Twin

3000 St. San Pablo Ave., Albany 843-FILM
● **Drumline** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30
● **Toppy-Turvy** (R) 5:00, 8:15

California Theatres

On Shattuck St. off Shattuck, Berkeley 843-FILM
● **American Beauty** (R) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20
● **Boys Don't Cry** (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
● **Wonder Boys** (R) 11:40 a.m., 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35

32100 Union Landing Road, Union City 487-9593

● **3 Strikes** (R) 12:30, 2:30, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50
● **American Beauty** (R) 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:35

The Beach (R) 8:20

● **Beyond the Mat** (R) noon, 2:20, 4:45, 7:05, 9:20

● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 12:35, 3:25, 6:50, 9:45

● **Drowning Mona** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30

● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:35, 2:30, 3:30

● **Final Destination** (R) 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:35

● **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai** (R) 11:15 a.m., 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05

● **The Green Mile** (R) 12:10, 4:15, 8:10

● **Haraging Up** (PG-13) 6:55, 9:15

● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:15 a.m., noon, 1:50, 3:00, 4:25, 5:45, 7:10, 8:35, 9:55

● **My Dog Skip** (PG) 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

● **The Next Best Thing** (PG-13) 11:35 a.m., 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:25

● **The Ninth Gate** (R) 11:45 a.m., 12:55, 2:55, 3:55, 5:55, 7:55, 9:55

● **Pitch Black** (R) 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00

● **Reindeer Games** (R) 12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40

● **Screen 3** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30

● **Snow Day** (PG) 11:15 a.m., 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 8:00

● **The Tigger Movie** (G) 11:25, 2:35, 4:35

● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 11:30 a.m., 1:55, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

● **Wonder Boys** (R) 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:15

Century Oakland 8

1800 at 2601 Oakland, Oakland 562-9990

● **3 Strikes** (R) 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:35, 9:30

● **Final Destination** (R) 12:10, 2:00, 4:20, 6:25, 9:35

● **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai** (R) 11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55

● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:35 a.m., 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

● **The Ninth Gate** (R) 11:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45

● **Pitch Black** (R) 8:10, 10:10

● **Snow Day** (PG) 11:40 a.m., 1:45, 3:50, 6:00

● **The Tigger Movie** (G) 11:25, 2:35, 4:35, 6:45, 8:50

● **Wonder Boys** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Chabot Cinema

2053 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 582-2555

● **Mission to Mars** (PG) noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15

Elmwood

2565 Elridge Avenue, Berkeley 469-6530

● **The Emperor and the Assassin** (NR) 8:20

● **Girl, Interrupted** (R) 9:15

● **The Insider** (R) 9:30

● **The Sixth Sense** (PG-13) 6:00

● **The Straight Story** (G) 6:15

● **Sweet and Lowdown** (PG-13) 7:15

● **Turnbuckle** (PG-13) 4:50

Fine Arts Cinema - Berkeley

2451 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 848-1143

● **400 Blows** (1969) (NR) 9:15

● **Kids** (NR-17) 3:30

Grand Lake Theater

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 452-3556

● **American Beauty** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45

● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

● **Final Destination** (R) 12:45, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

● **The Ninth Gate** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:00

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington St., Oakland 433-1320

● **3 Strikes** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

● **American Beauty** (R) 11:55 a.m., 2:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25

● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 11:00 a.m., 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45

● **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai** (R) 11:25 a.m., 2:05, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35

● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:05 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 1:40, 2:20, 4:25, 5:00, 7:05, 7:45, 9:50, 10:30

● **My Dog Skip** (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 11:20 a.m., 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

● **Wonder Boys** (R) 11:10 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15

Mann Festival 9

1801 Heppner Blvd., Hayward 785-9000

● **Drowning Mona** (PG-13) 12:40, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 10:00

● **Final Destination** (R) noon, 12:30, 2:15, 2:45, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:15

● **The Next Best Thing** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

● **The Ninth Gate** (R) 12:35, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50

● **Pitch Black** (R) 12:25, 3:00, 3:30, 7:55, 10:15

● **Reindeer Games** (R) 8:00, 10:10

● **Screen 3** (R) 7:45, 10:20

● **Snow Day** (PG) noon, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00

● **The Tigger Movie** (G) 12:05, 2:05, 4:05, 6:05

● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55

NAZ 8

39400 Argonaut Way, Fremont 797-2000

● **Badli** (NR) 5:00

● **Hey! Ram** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **Kala Na Pyaar Hai** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **Kashmir** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **Krodi** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **La Chal Ange Samy** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **Phir Din Hai Hindustani** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **Pukar** (NR) 5:00, 9:00

● **Tamli Movie** (NR) 9:30

Oaks Theater

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 526-1836

● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 7:15, 9:15

● **My Dog Skip** (PG) 7:00, 9:00

Piedmont Theatre

Piedmont at 41st, Oakland 843-FILM

● **Boys Don't Cry** (R) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20

● **Boys Don't Cry** (R) 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40

Shattuck Cinemas

On Shattuck at Kellough, Berkeley 843-FILM

● **Boys Don't Cry** (R) 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20

● **Boys Don't Cry** (R) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00

● **Boiler Room** (R) 12:45, 6:45

● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:00, 6:55, 9:40

● **The Cup** (G) 12:15, 2:25, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 1:30, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40

● **Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter Jr.** (PG-13) 12:40, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:25

● **The Next Best Thing** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05

● **The Ninth Gate** (R) 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

● **The Talented Mr. Ripley** (R) 3:30, 9:25

● **The Third Miracle** (R) 12:50, 3:25, 6:30, 9:10

Silver Super Saver Cinemas Fremont 7

39180 Paseo Padre Pkwy - Gateway Plaza Shopping Ctr., Fremont 555-2292

● **Anna and the King** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30

● **Any Given Sunday** (R) 3:30, 6:45

● **Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo** (R) 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:25, 9:20

● **Man on the Moon** (R) 12:50, 9:55

● **The Sixth Sense** (PG-13) 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

● **Starry Harry** (R) 12:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

● **Stuart Little** (PG) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

● **The World Is Not Enough** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

UA Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 843-1467

● **3 Strikes** (R) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

● **Beyond the Mat** (R) 12:45, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

● **Final Destination** (R) 12:30, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 10:15

● **Judy Berlin** (NR) noon, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40

● **Pitch Black** (R) 2:15, 7:00

● **Reindeer Games** (R) 12:10, 4:50, 9:30

● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) noon, 2:30, 4:45, 7:40, 9:50

UA Emerybay 10

6330 Chabot Rd., Emeryville 420-0107

● **American Beauty** (R) 11:10 a.m., 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 10:55 a.m., 1:40, 4:30,

7:20, 10:10
● **Drowning Mona** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 10:50 a.m., 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45, 10:45
● **Final Destination** (R) 11:30 a.m., 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:15
● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:00 a.m., noon, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40
● **Reindeer Games** (R) 8:10, 10:30
● **Snow Day** (PG) 11:00 a.m., 1:15, 3:30, 6:00
● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 10:00

UA Hayward 6
24800 Heppner Blvd., Hayward 786-3000
● **3 Strikes** (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:45, 8:00, 10:30
● **American Beauty** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) noon, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15
● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20
● **My Dog Skip** (PG) 11:45 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

UC Theatre
University Avenue between Meira Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 843-FILM
● **Dogma** (R) 7:00, 11:05
● **South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut** (R) 5:20, 9:25

Central Contra Costa

Festival Walnut Creek
14531 El Cerrito, Walnut Creek 946-9446
● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 12:15, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50
● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 10:20
● **The Next Best Thing** (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40

Orinda Theater
4 Orinda Theater Square, Orinda 254-9060
● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 6:30, 9:15
● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 7:00, 9:45
● **Toppy-Turvy** (R) 5:00, 9:00

Park Theater
3519 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 283-7997
● **American Beauty** (R) 7:00, 9:30

Rheem All-Stadium 4
350 Park Street, Moraga 988-3411
● **Boys Don't Cry** (R) 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
● **Mission to Mars** (PG) 11:30, 7:00, 9:30
● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 5:00, 7:45, 9:50
● **Wonder Boys** (R) 4:45, 7:30, 9:45

West Contra Costa

Century 10 Pinole
180 Appian Way, Pinole 222-9000
● **3 Strikes** (R) 11:35 a.m., 1:40, 3:45, 5:45, 8:00, 10:05
● **The Cider House Rules** (PG-13) 12:05, 3:00, 7:05, 10:10
● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 12:30, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
● **Final Destination** (R) 11:50 a.m., 2:00, 4:20, 7:30, 9:50
● **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai** (R) 11:35 a.m., 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
● **Mission to Mars** (PG) noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
● **My Dog Skip** (PG) 11:40 a.m., 1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
● **The Ninth Gate** (R) 12:15, 3:55, 7:20, 10:20
● **Reindeer Games** (R) 8:00, 10:30
● **Snow Day** (PG) 11:30 a.m., 1:40, 3:50, 6:00
● **The Whole Nine Yards** (R) 12:10, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25

San Francisco

AMC 1000 Van Ness
1000 Van Ness, San Francisco (415)922-4AMC
● **3 Strikes** (R) 1:15, 11:05
● **American Beauty** (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40
● **Beyond the Mat** (R) 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, midnight
● **Erin Brockovich** (R) 1:00, 1:50, 4:05, 6:15, 7:10, 8:00, 10:10, 11:10, 12:50 a.m.
●

"Dances with Dogs"



Mark Stumpf has his arms full of his exuberant Irish Wolfhound Rafael, along with his other doggie friends Humpfrey and Isabella at the grand opening reception of the new VCA Bay Area Animal Hospital on Saturday, March 4. An unidentified guest (center) converses with office manager, Debbie Davidson (right) who seems to be unaware of the performance.

Located at 4501 Shattuck Avenue, Oakland, the facility has state of the art

equipment to give the best possible care for the animals, plus boarding and grooming. The partygoers included pets and their people and were entertained by animal psychic, Sam Louie and caricature artist James Courtney.

Pets come in all Shapes and Sizes...

Claire Bedbrook, a student at Fox Ridge Farms in the Oakland Hills holds a couple of toy horses while her "real" horse, Holly (a Thoroughbred) nuzzles close to remind Claire that she is really the best ride! Riding lessons and toy horses both available at FoxRidge Farms. For information call 510-531-0262.



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OAKLAND EAST BAY SPCA

A job for Scarlett...



Scarlett, a 9-year-old Gordon Setter was owned by a pedigree breeder and she had exceeded her breeding years and faced possible euthanasia. Bill Keck, former director of Sunrise learned of Scarlett's plight through the local Rotary Club and adopted her.

He took her to work one day and she made such a hit with the residents that she became the official house pet and "greeter." She makes the transition to assisted care easier for the residence and brings a smile to their face. **Job well done, Scarlett!**

Mona Laichandani, director of Community Relations at Sunrise Assisted Care in the Oakland Hills and Scarlett, the official house dog.



Pet Talk



AN ADVERTISING FEATURE

Why Your Pet Might Need Medical Insurance Protection

by Dr. Allen A. Cesafsky, D.V.M.

Chances are, an accident or serious illness will strike your pet at some point during its lifetime. The odds don't improve for pets that stay indoors.

The reality is that pets are as apt to need the same professional medical services as any other family member. From ear and bladder infections to broken bones, cancer and heart disease, today's veterinarian can diagnose and treat many of the same ailments that affect you and your family. And, though veterinary services often cost less than 10 percent of comparable procedures from a physician, quality pet care can easily add up to hundreds ... even thousands of dollars.

In the past, big medical bills brought tough choices to pet owners - choices like watching their pet suffer or ending its life through euthanasia. Now there's a better choice for assuring the best in veterinary care and a healthier,

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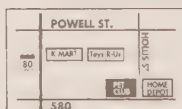
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may the wind be always at your back,
may the sunshine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again may god hold
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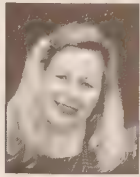


CONTRA COSTA ANIMAL SHELTER

Each Life Counts...Help Us Help The Animals

There's More To Life Than Just Working become a VOLUNTEER....

by Nancy DuPont



Dr. Susan Mullen

Dr. Susan Mullen of Community Chiropractic in Oakland has a special place in her heart for the Oakland

SPCA. "My vision is to work with pets in the future, and I really respect what they do." Said Mullen

free time. I thought it would be a good time to do volunteer work for about a year.

I did some fund raising activities but my favorite job was to take the dogs for a walk. It was just a ten or fifteen minute walk to allow them to exercise and run. I was in tears most the time, realizing how much heart felt love and appreciation one can derive from these homeless pets. There is such an opportunity for college students and retired people to just spend time with these cats and dogs and 15 minutes makes such a difference!

"All this dog wanted was to sit on my lap and be held, so for the 15 or 20 minutes I just held him."

I remember a Great Dane who especially touched my heart. When I took him out of his cage, he just wanted to be close to me and look at me. All this dog wanted was to sit on my lap and be held, so for the 15 or 20 minutes I just held him. The hardest thing I had to do was put him back. He hated his cage. Fortunately, he was adopted shortly after that. I had to leave my volunteer work to focus on building my practice but I am committed to helping the animals. There is a group of chiropractors that are certified to treat animals and are working with veterinarians to save animals lives. I look forward to someday doing that.

of the many volunteers that help out at the SPCA facility on Baldwin Street in Oakland.

"I have been a member of the SPCA for years and when I got out of college, before I made a decision where I would practice my chiropractic work, I had some

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The next **Adopt a Pet** page will appear April 11-15. To sponsor an animal or for information call Nancy DuPont at (510) 339-4033. Thank you for all your support!

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Dining & Entertainment

Cafe Galleria

4100 Redwood Road, Oakland
(510) 530-8737

This charming edition to Oakland's restaurant scene continues in the tradition of a great coffee house with a lot more.

The interior has been remodeled and is bright and beautiful. Local artists display their work beside some of Oakland's younger talents in training.

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Garibaldi's on College

5356 College Ave., near Manila
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The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on Mediterranean-California style food, from tantalizing appetizers (sauteed asparagus with pancetta, grilled portobello mushroom) to perfectly done entrees (wood oven roasted chicken, paella inspired seafood risotto).

And a rich dessert of warm chocolate pudding-cake, espresso ice cream and toasted nuts is enough to satisfy almost anyone. First-rate wood fired pizzas and cold tapas style dishes make this a great place for sharing, and a semi-private back dining room is perfect for larger groups.

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The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts presents David Grover and the Big Bear Band, Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 pm.

These award-winning children's entertainers are here for only one performance. This is a wonderful family event not to be missed! Call (510) 84-JULIA for tickets and more information.

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The Bay Area's finest entertainment venue located in the heart of Emeryville at 5800 Shellmound St., #200. For a complete entertainment schedule, check the website at www.kimballs.com. Kimball's fax number is (510) 658-3964.

La Creme de la Creme

5362 College Ave., Oakland
(510) 420-8822

Come join us in celebrating our 18th anniversary. We are featuring some of our signature dishes, including Grilled Jumbo Scallops and Tiger Prawns er Brochettes, Rack of Lamb ala Marechale, Rib-Eye Steak Au Poivre and Fillet Mignon Oscar.

Our chef has also prepared an extraordinary Seafood Specials menu for this occasion.

Try our award-winning sumptuous desserts, Gateau La Creme and Pear Brioche in our heated garden patio. Please call (510) 420-8822 for reservations.

Rockridge Steak Bistro

5301 College Ave., Oakland
(510) 985-8388

Come visit Oakland's newest steak house, featuring beef from Niman ranch, fresh daily seafood selections and organically grown vegetables and lettuces.

Sergio's Trattoria

5299 College Ave., Oakland
(510) 655-2869

Now celebrating its 5th year anniversary on College Avenue, Sergio's Trattoria considers themselves a neighborhood landmark.

Sergio's grand ideas have enhanced the food and atmosphere, from the faux painted walls in a romantic 17th century Florentine theme, to the floor-to-ceiling hand-made iron wine racks. Sergio's features hearty pastas and entrees. Don't miss the anti pastas and desserts.

Most customers can relive their trips to Italy here and even plan them. Without Sergio's personality in the dining room, this would be just another Italian restaurant. Open for dinner 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

The Cantina

4239 Park Blvd., Oakland
(510) 482-3073

Visualize the perfect Mexican Restaurant ... what would you create? Dishes are created with the freshest ingredients available, with cilantro and a variety of mild and hot peppers. An extensive collection of hot sauces from around the world allow you to add your own special spice to make your meal truly your own. Margarita's are made to tickle your taste buds.

The variety is outstanding, the quality and flavor unbeatable: a house margarita, golden, original, blue, pink, sweet, fruit, and the ultimate. Sounds like we're on our way to a great Fiesta and more. Great luncheon specials, Monday through Saturday; the hottest Happy Hour in paradise. Dine indoors or out.

The Reef

1000 Embarcadero, Oakland
(510) 836-2519

At The Reef restaurant you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary expertise from the same owners for 18 years. The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking.

The Reef Restaurant is located one mile south of Jack London Square off 880 freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.

Tsing Tao

1479 Solano Ave., Berkeley
(510) 526-6223

A fixture on Solano Avenue for over twenty years, Tsing Tao offers a varied menu for lunch and dinner. Specialty orders can be prepared with 24-hour advance notice. Over 25 luncheon specials are offered from four to six dollars. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Mon. through Thurs.; 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat.; 12:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sun. Please see our ad in this section for special discounts.



Car Wash goes Platinum

Rose Royce's first recorded album Car Wash has gone Platinum – the Grammy award-winning group has sold millions of copies of Car Wash.

Currently Rose Royce has a new album released in the United Kingdom entitled Rose Royce Live, which is destined to go gold.

In their twelve-year recording history, Rose Royce has earned eight gold records and five platinum records for such sensations as Love Don't Live Here Anymore, Do Your Dance, I'm In Love, I Wanna Get Next To You, and Wishing on A Star.

Many artists have covered Rose Royce's classic songs such as Love Don't Live Here Anymore (Madonna) and more recently, I'm

Going Down (May J. Blige)

Dazzling audiences with Rose Royce currently tours three times a year and twice a year. Rose Royce played to many standing crowds all over the world. Royce is a versatile group, possessing a multitude of musical and dramatic talents.

Rose Royce features Copeland (lead vocals and percussion), Richee Benson (lead), Freddie Dunn (trumpet), McKinney (guitar and vocals), Moore (sax), Henry (drums).

Rose Royce will be performing at Kimball's East, on Thursday, March 31, Saturday, April 1, and Sunday, April 2.

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Dining & Entertainment

AN ADVERTISING FEATURE

Old world meets new at agferrari.com



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REGISTER | SEARCH | LOCATE A STORE | SHIPPING INFO | SHOPKEEPER | CATERING SERVICES | SHOPPING BASKET

Ferrari's web site offers a bounty of Italian products for purchase, and educates the viewer about the history and complexity of Italian food.

Many Italians still take pride in the old-fashioned things the old-fashioned way. These low-tech food artisans are the unlikely stars of a successful web site that uses Internet technology to tout virtues of classic, authentic, quality Italian food. A.G. Ferrari Foods, a specialty Italian retailer since 1919, added e-commerce to its respected brick-and-mortar business last year. Since its launch, agferrari.com's online base and sales have grown exponentially, putting the thriving company in an excellent position to lead the Italian category on the web. The web site is a very modern version of an old family ideal -- passion for food and wine in the "old tradition," says CEO Paul Ferrari, grandson of the company's founder. In developing its web site, the company's intention was to create a shopping experience as fun and friendly as its ten Bay Area stores.

To that end, Ferrari encourages web users ask questions about Italian food (Ferrari prides himself on responding to every query), browse authentic Italian recipes from company chef Gianluca Guglielmi, and get to know the personalities behind the company's high-quality products.

On the web and in his neighborhood stores, Ferrari is dedicated to supporting the artigiani, small artisan producers who are committed to making the best, most authentic products possible.

Most of these producers have been in the business for generations, and almost all use traditional equipment -- some dating back hundreds of years. Giamaica Caffe is typical of the products Ferrari searches out in his frequent forays to Italy.

Made at a tiny Veronese roastery by proprietor Gianni Frasi, who learned the coffee business from his uncle, this A.G. Ferrari exclusive is served at some of Italy's finest

restaurants. Frasi travels to India once a year to hand select his beans and continues to roast them in his uncle's original fire-engine-red coffee roaster.

While A.G. Ferrari's bricks and mortars stores are all centered in the Bay Area, there are no such limitations on the e-commerce site. The award-winning web store attracts customers from all over the world.

"My grandfather, Annibale Giovanni Ferrari, would be amazed at how accessible I've made authentic Italian products," says Ferrari. And proud, too.

Explore A.G. Ferrari's online at www.agferrari.com, call toll-free at 877-878-2783 or visit any one of A.G. Ferrari's ten Bay Area neighborhood stores.

A more healthful, tasty way of eating

With all the controversy over dietary fat, you may be tempted to reduce your fat intake. But be careful--experts caution you should not be fooled into completely eliminating fat from your diet.

"Our bodies need a certain amount of fat to function," says Riska Platt, M.S., R.D. "Fat is necessary for carrying vitamins like A, D, E, and K. It also helps provide a sense of fullness after eating a meal."

What type of fat is best? Studies have suggested that monounsaturated fats, such as olive oil, (the primary fat source in the much-touted Mediterranean diet), help lower blood cholesterol, especially the "bad" or LDL-variety, while protecting the "good" or HDL type.

Additional components of the Mediterranean diet are complex carbohydrates, such as grains, pasta, rice, dried beans and fresh vegetables and fruit. Meat and seafood are taken sparingly, and used more for flavor than as a main course.

"Traditionally, when it comes to cooking and seasoning foods in the Mediterranean region, consumers use mostly olive oil instead of saturated fats, like butter or lard, or polyunsaturated fats, like those found in corn or safflower oils," Platt suggests.

Cannellini Bean and Roasted Garlic Salad

4 large garlic cloves, peeled
2 tablespoons Bertolli® Extra Virgin Olive Oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1/2 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 1/2 cups (or one 16 ounce can) cannellini or white kidney beans, rinsed and drained



La Creme de la Creme's alfresco dining is well suited for all your special meals. They are located at 5362 College Avenue, Oakland.

1 bag (16 ounces) Italian style mixed salad greens
1/2 cup jarred whole roasted red peppers, cut into strips

Heat oven to 325°. Combine the garlic and oil in a small custard cup; cover with foil. Bake until garlic is soft, about 30 minutes.

Remove from oven; cool. Cut garlic into small pieces and add to the beans; reserve oil. Add vinegar, salt and pepper to the reserved oil; stir to blend.

Toss the salad with 1 tablespoon of the oil and vinegar mixture. Add the remaining mixture to the beans; taste and add more vinegar, if desired.

Arrange the greens on individual salad plates and spoon the beans on to the top.

Garnish with roasted red peppers.

Makes 4 servings.

To receive a copy of Bertolli Celebrates The Mediterranean Menu, write to: The Bertolli Nutrition Center, P.O. Box 2001, Grand Rapids, MI 55745-2001 MR.

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5362 College Avenue, Oakland (510) 595-4000
- Nava Restaurant**
5478 College Avenue, Rockridge (510) 655-4770
- CHINESE**
- Wing Tao Restaurant**
479 Solano Avenue, Albany (510) 526-6223
- FRENCH**
- La Creme de la Creme**
5362 College Avenue, Oakland (510) 420-8822
- ITALIAN**
- Italian Colors**
101 Broadway, Oakland (510) 267-0412
- North Beach Pizza**
508 University Ave. @ California, Berkeley (510) 849-9800
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400 Alameda Street (202M), Oakland (510) 832-7710 www.woyo.org
- Kimball's East**
2800 Sheltonwood, Emeryville (510) 658-2555 Powell St. exit from 880
- For information on the Dining & Entertainment Guide, call Duke Reedy at (510) 339-4036
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LEGAL NOTICE

NAME STATE

NAME STATEMENT

Rebecca Murray
311 Avonlea Circle
Pittsburgh, PA 15265

Brandon Murray
311 Avonlea Circle
Pittsburgh, PA 15265

The business is conducted by husband and wife.

This statement was filed with the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, on February 22, 2002.

Expenses for the business commenced on February 22, 2002.

Legal fees for the business commenced on February 22, 2002.

April 7, 2002

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The name of the fictitious business name is: VERNA RAPER, INC., d/b/a V.R. RAPER, INC., C/O E. B. RAPER, INC., 10000 E. 12th Avenue, Suite 100, Denver, Colorado 80231, registered by the following:

Elizabeth Gaar

The business is conducted by E. B. RAPER, INC., d/b/a V.R. RAPER, INC., C/O E. B. RAPER, INC., 10000 E. 12th Avenue, Suite 100, Denver, Colorado 80231, registered by the following:

Elizabeth Gaar

The business is conducted by E. B. RAPER, INC., d/b/a V.R. RAPER, INC., C/O E. B. RAPER, INC., 10000 E. 12th Avenue, Suite 100, Denver, Colorado 80231, registered by the following:

Elizabeth Gaar

Expenses for the business commenced on February 22, 2002.

Legal fees for the business commenced on February 22, 2002.

April 7, 2002

FEBRUARY 22, 2002

FILED

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

BY M. OLIVER, DEPUTY CLERK

FEBRUARY 17, 2000
STEVEN R. MCLAUGHLIN
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BY M. CLIVER DUFFY
PICNIC'S BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CLODOW PRODUCTION
INCORPORATED, a corporation
located at 10819 San Pablo Ave.
in Emeryville, California, is
being liquidated as provided
under the following terms:
The assets of the business
of Pauline
1819 San Pablo Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94130
This business is conducted by
an individual
The statement was filed with
the County Clerk's Office
Costs on date indicated
file stamp above
Expire February 15, 2000
Expire February 15, 2000
Ralph Mclaughlin
March 17, 2000
**NOTICE OF
PETITION
TO ADMINISTER
THE ESTATE OF:**
**RALPH
MCLAUGHLIN**
OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA
COSTA, CALIFORNIA
**RALPH EXETER
MCLAUGHLIN**
CASE NUMBER:
P00-00191
to all persons claiming
creditors' contingent creditors
and/or interested parties
otherwise interested in the
estate or part of
the estate of said person
RALPH EXETER MCLAUGHLIN
Petitioner
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE
has been seen ME BY PATRICIA
"MCLAUGHLIN" in the Superior
Court of Contra Costa County of
California.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

its Sunday Brunch and Lecture Series with author Martha Loeffler on Sunday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m. Admission: \$4 BRJC members, \$5 public. For more information, call 848-0237

Music

Singer/songwriter Kevin Merritt returns from New York for CD release concert at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., on Saturday, March 25, 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 26, 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 students/children/seniors, and can be purchased on the internet at www.activa.com by calling Acteva at 415-401-2200, or by clicking the "Buy Tickets Now" link on the Julia Morgan Center website, www.juliamorgan.org

Award-winning East Bay Area vocal ensemble SolVoSo perform Saturday, March 18, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. at Mr. E's Jazz Club, 2284 Shattuck Ave. Tickets: \$12. For additional information, call 848-2009.

Jazz and R&B vocalist Ledei performs with her band, Anibade, at the jazz school/LaNote, 2377 Shattuck Ave., on Sunday, March 26, 4:30 p.m. General admission: \$12, students, seniors \$10. Jazz school students/children 12 and under \$6. Limited seating, reservations recommended. For additional information, or reservations, call 845-5373.

The First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St., continues its 2000 Lenten Organ Recital Series, Friday evenings at 7 p.m. with John R. S. Walk, organist. Series dates are March 31, April 7 and April 21. Admission is free. For more information, call 848-6242.

The Jazzschool in Berkeley celebrates the end of its winter semester with four nights of recitals presented by its students. More than two dozen instrumental and vocal ensembles will perform at the Jazzschool/LaNote, 2377 Shattuck Ave. on March 26, 7 p.m. and March 28, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, seating is very limited and advance reservations are strongly suggested. Call 845-5373 for reservations and additional information.

The First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St., presents its 2000 Lenten Organ Recital Series observing the 25th anniversary of the Ruffatti organ, John R. S. Walk, organist. Concert schedule: Fridays March 31, April 7 and 21. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 848-6242.

The Berkeley Russian School presents a Spring Benefit Concert "Music Around the World" on Sunday, March 26, 3 p.m. at the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave. The program includes Choral Prelude by J.S. Bach, Suite for Viola and Harp by H. Purcell, Duo for Violin and Viola by W.A. Mozart, Preludes by S. Rachmaninov, and Songs and Dances of Death by M. Musorgsky, Adagio by T. Albinoni, art songs by P. Tchaikovsky. To reserve tickets, call 526-8892 or send a check to Berkeley Russian School, 514 Talbot Ave., Albany, CA 94706.

Support

The Radiation and Public Health Project (RPHP) presents the "Tooth Fairy

Project and Cancer in Northern California," a free forum, on Thursday, March 23, 7-9 p.m. at the West Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 8th St. For additional information, contact Dr. Navin Gordon, 444-1319.

The Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., offers a free program on "Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer - Are you at Risk?" on Thursday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call 848-0237 ext. 127 for additional information.

Lecture/Workshop

Julia Butterfly will speak about her two-year free-sit atop a 1000-year-old Redwood tree named Luna on Sunday, March 26, 4-9 p.m. at Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar. She will sign copies of her book "The Legacy of Luna" and there will be video footage of her free-sit. Call 835-6303 for additional information.

The UC Berkeley Department of Music sponsors an Earl "Fatha" Hines Symposium, Saturday, March 18, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at UC Berkeley, Morrison Hall, Elkus Room. Admission is free and the public is invited. Call 642-0825 for additional information.

To place a classified ad call 339-8777.

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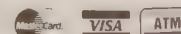
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The Auto Section

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March 17, 2000

Section D

Auto Directory Find a dealer faster with our guide [D3]

At the Pump Northern California gasoline prices through the roof [D4]

Classifieds Listings continue inside [D6]

Honda Insight proves promising hybrid

Keene on Wheels

By Tom Keane

The 2000 Honda Insight provides some insight as to what is happening in the automobile industry. Fuel-efficient engines seem to be gaining around.

The Insight is the first gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle to be sold in the United States, but others will follow. Toyota will soon introduce the Prius and Daimler-Chrysler just announced they will be coming out with a Dodge ESX3 that seats five people and uses a diesel and electric engine.

The Insight gets about 70 miles to the gallon and runs so cleanly that it meets California's stringent Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle standard.

It also uses electricity, which is stored in a 144-volt nickel-metal hydride battery pack and controlled by an advanced electronic Power Control Unit. This method doesn't require an outside source for electrical power. Primarily regenerative braking generates the system. At least, that's what I'm told, but I don't understand how it works.

The heart of the Integrated Motor Assist system is a very small 1.0-liter, three cylinder gasoline automobile engine. This engine is made of lightweight materials such as aluminum, magnesium and special plastics.

Somewhere in the process when the engine is running, it will switch from

See INSIGHT, Page D2



THE INSIGHT BOASTS an impressive 61 MPG around town and 70 MPG on the open highway. It also has the usual conveniences, such as power windows, steering mirrors and door locks. Air conditioning is optional. Nevertheless, this \$18,800 vehicle comes well equipped, including an AM/FM stereo cassette player.

Drive, She Said



By
Denise
McCluggage

Buying habits rate in survey

Just how dissimilar are men and women when it comes to buying cars and buying stuff for cars? I decided to conduct a survey. My surveys are non-scientific. I ask random questions randomly. I make subjective observations. And I put credence into what scientists sneer at as "anecdotal" information. I love anecdotes. Here are some of my conclusions:

■ Trusting a car salesman is important to both men and women, but women decide to not trust based more on a salesman's appearance and men more on what he says.

"I couldn't buy a car from anyone wearing a white belt and white shoes," one woman told me. Her husband said

See SURVEY, Page D2

Interest Rates

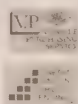
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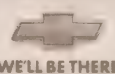
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2000 Impala

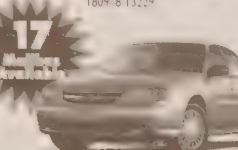
11 Impala Available



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2000 Malibu

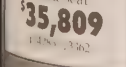
V6 Auto, Air, PW, PDL, Tilt 1809/8 13229



\$15,995 After Rebate

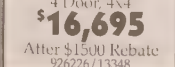
NEW 2000 Tahoe

Third Seat \$35,809 13488/3362



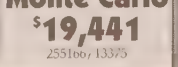
NEW 2000 Tracker

4 Door, 4x4 \$16,695 After \$1500 Rebate 926226/13348



NEW 2000 Monte Carlo

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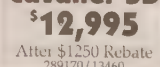
NEW 2000 Surburban

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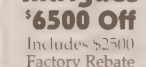
NEW 2000 Cavalier SD

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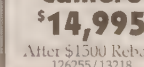
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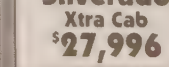
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Insight

FROM PAGE D1

gasoline to electric power using an ultra-thin, permanent magnet electric motor. The transition is so smooth, I was never able to detect when the switching occurred.

The Insight is a two-seater. Sort of a commuter car with a large cargo area, but limited to carrying objects that are low in height. The car is made of lightweight aluminum with an exceptional aerodynamic design. Honda boasts it has one of the lowest coefficients of drag (0.25) of any mass-produced automobiles sold worldwide.

The Insight's eye-catching body style includes rear fender skirts which help the air to smoothly glide past the rear wheel wells. This car also uses low friction tires, all in the interest of better fuel economy.

Another means to achieve low air friction is the height of the car. It sits low to the ground, standing a mere 53 inches high. And thereby lies its only fault.

Getting in and out of the Insight is a struggle compared to cars of normal proportion. But once seated inside, I found it well worth the struggle. The seats are comfortable, visibility is good, surroundings are functional, and the overall atmos-

SPECIFICATIONS

2000 HONDA INSIGHT

VEHICLE TYPE	Two-passenger commuter car
BASE PRICE	\$18,880 (as tested: \$21,260)
ENGINE TYPE	3-cylinder SOHC 12-valve w/MPFI
DISPLACEMENT	1.0-liter
HORSEPOWER (net)	67 at 5700 rpm
TORQUE (lb-ft)	66 at 4800 rpm
TRANSMISSION	5-speed manual
WHEELBASE	94 in. 2388 mm
TREAD (front/rear)	56 / 52 in. 1422 / 1320 mm

OVERALL LENGTH	155 in. 3937 mm
OVERALL WIDTH	67 in. 1701 mm
HEIGHT	53 in. 1346 mm
TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb)	31 ft 9.4 m
CURB WEIGHT	1,887 lbs. 856 kg
FUEL CAPACITY	10 gals 37 L
EPA MILEAGE RATING	61 city, 70 highway
ASSEMBLY PLANT	Takazawa Plant, Japan
STRONG FEATURE	Fuel economy
WEAK FEATURE	Getting in and out

phere has a very sporty appearance.

One unusual feature is the size of the numerals on the digital speedometer while other instruments are in analog. The contrast is very easy to read and understand. A cou-

ple instruments reveal when and how much the batteries are being charged, but they were of no help for me to determine the type of power that was being used.

Survey

FROM PAGE D1

he didn't mind all the loud jacket clichés about car salesmen, but he would walk out if a salesman said: "Just what would it take to get you in this car today?" And what if the "he" was a "she"?

Both said their experience with women selling cars was small to none, but after some discussion it seemed to me both of them were less apt to make snap judgments about a saleswoman's trustworthiness.

"As long as she knows her product," the man said. And then added almost defensively, "but I expect that of anyone."

And he still wouldn't want to hear any routine sales argot. The wife was laughing: "and for a woman it's okay with the white belt and shoes if it's after Easter and before Labor Day."

■ Sales people would do better listening before talking.

A female car buyer told me: "I like someone who asks questions and then listens, really listens, to my answers and then comes up with some appropriate information. I don't need to be sold anything; I just need to

know facts, so we can make an intelligent decision."

Her fiancé agreed, "I want respect, honesty and information." Sounds like a plan to me.

■ Salesmen had better be careful with their assumptions.

"I was car-shopping with my father-in-law," a young woman told me, still ticked. "He knows as much about cars as a black umbrella and I grew up with two brothers and a mechanic dad."

Yet even when she asked the questions, the answers were directed at her father-in-law who just nodded. "Maybe it was better that way after all," she said. "I had time to check the lift-over height of the trunk and the knee room in the backseat while those two yakked and nodded at each other. My husband and I later bought a car just like one he showed us, but from another dealer."

■ Women buyers, whether satisfied or dissatisfied, talk to others more than men do about the quality of their experience.

The ignored car-wise young woman above admits badmouthing the dealership where she felt insulted to her aerobics-class friends.

"I wouldn't want them to have to go through the same thing," she said.

And several satisfied woman buyers told me they praised to friends the dealers where they had a good buying experience.

"I sent my hair dresser and her aunt there," one said.

A few of the men talked of their positive experiences, too, but only if they had made a killer deal. It seemed to me that acquiring a rep for being a tough negotiator was the main reason most of the men talked about their experience at all.

Helping a friend find a good buy was limited motivation. On two occasions men quietly admitted to me they had felt taken after buying their new cars. And, no, they never talked about it to anyone.

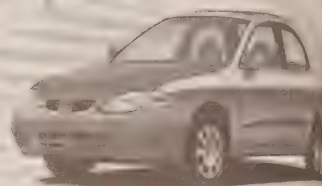
One said, "I've got a golfing buddy who would never let me forget it if he found out I paid too much. He equates manhood with making a drop dead deal on a car."

■ Now what about buying after-market stuff for a car? Conclusions: Men, far more than women, are into "chipping" (changing the computer chips in their cars' control systems) for more horsepower. Men also seek to improve torque, brakes and suspension systems. Women want to enhance a car's livability (more organized storage, greater comfort).

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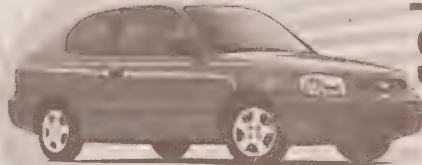
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Northern California gasoline prices shattered, survey finds

By Teena Massingill
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Old gas price records were shattered this week when the average cost of unleaded gasoline leapt to \$1.84 in the Bay Area, beating the previous record by 14 cents.

The number of records broken would probably make Guinness jealous, as every city surveyed by the AAA of Northern California logged historic highs on Tuesday, with the most notable number coming from Oakland, where the \$1.84 average price beat the previous high by 18 cents set in April 1999. That's the most drastic jump in records for the

East Bay, though Concord was close behind, beating its previous high by 17 cents. Concord's current average is \$1.81.

Not only did the survey, released Tuesday, reveal historic highs, but it also showed the meteoric rise in gas prices over the last month since AAA conducted its last complete survey of more than 23 cities on Feb. 15. The agency did a special abridged survey of only 11 cities on Feb. 29. Increases since Feb. 15 include:

- Antioch: \$1.79, up 36 cents
- Berkeley: \$1.85, up 32 cents
- Fremont: \$1.84, up 37 cents
- Pleasanton: \$1.94, up 34 cents

- Richmond: \$1.83, up 36 cents
- Walnut Creek: \$1.80, up 30 cents

Though Pleasanton took the lead with the highest average gas price among Bay Area cities, the city of Eureka topped the Northern California charts at \$2 per gallon, possibly the highest average for any comparable sized city in the United States.

Keeping with an unwanted tradition, Northern California's gas prices are the highest in the country, but high crude oil prices that have affected the entire nation have helped close the gap.

Drivers in Southern California are paying \$1.77, only five cents less than the Northern California. There is typically a 10- to 15-cent difference in price between the Northern and Southern sections of the Golden State.

When California suffered a series of refinery problems in the Spring 1999, prices spiked at \$1.68 in Northern California, though the national

average was 53 cents per gallon. Today's average of \$1.54 is only 25 cents that of Northern California.

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3.9% apr

\$21,499*

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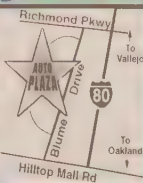


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Auto, AC, PW, PDL, tilt, CC, AM/FM cass., #219378/1585P

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COME SEE & DRIVE

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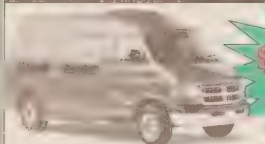
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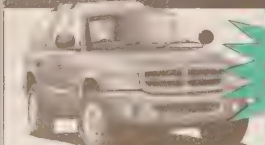
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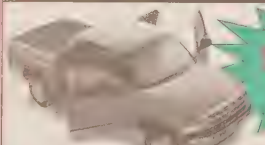
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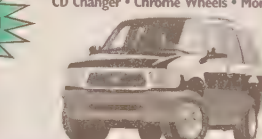


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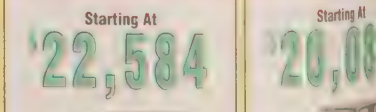
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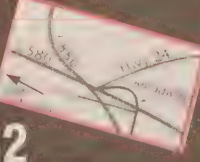
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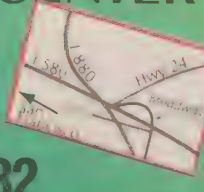


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Spicy baked "fries" are a low-fat treat

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bread may be the staff of life, but potatoes can't be far behind. At least not since today's health-conscious generation has been reminded time and again that potatoes come from the earth fat-free and remain fat-free until they are "dressed."

So here, for spud lovers everywhere, are baked fries with a variety of seasonings and sauces high on taste, low in fat. The potatoes can be served as a snack or with dinner.

Baked Fries: Mild and Medium, too

Preheat oven to 500 F. Cut potatoes in half lengthwise. Place each half, cut-side down, on cutting board and cut lengthwise into 1/4-inch thick shoestrings. Place in a mixing bowl and toss with desired seasoning mixture (recipes follow) or salt and pepper to taste. Line two baking sheets with foil, and coat the foil lightly with cooking spray. Divide potatoes between the two pans and spread evenly. Bake about 10 minutes, remove from oven and turn over the potato fries. Return pans to the oven and bake another 10 to 15 minutes, until potatoes are lightly browned and fork tender.

Please see **TREAT**, Page 2

COOL DOWN spiced potato sticks with a variety of sauces. The low-fat 'fries' are sprinkled with seasonings, baked and served with (clockwise from left) pureed squash and ginger sauce, horseradish cream sauce and barbecue sauce.



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Pasta Bella wins new friends with its homey style

By Lance Erickson Ghulam
CORRESPONDENT

Walk into Pasta Bella restaurant in Martinez and you may feel as though you've entered a charming cafe in the heart of San Francisco. With its long checkout counter, lace valances and authentic Italian accents, this Sicilian-style eatery brims with atmosphere.

Have a meal here and you'll discover a first-class dining destination with some of the tastiest Italian offerings in the area.

In its five years of operation, Pasta Bella has become a neighborhood staple.

"We have customers that come in every Friday and Saturday night faithfully," owner Regina Caruso says. "We have customers who we recognize over the phone, and know what they're going to order before they tell us."

Caruso, a manager of high spirits and enthusiastic energy, has spent most of her life entertaining guests and cooking for fun with her friends, so it was only natural she would find herself opening an eatery.

"My mother and I decided to do this. I always wanted to own a restaurant so I asked my parents to join me. It's been wonderful watching it develop."

Although of modest size, the cafe's meticulous surroundings, combined with the presentation of the entrees, make the dining experience here truly enjoyable. The bustle of Muir Station shopping center is all around, yet visitors seem removed from it all in the cozy setting.

Caruso is confident in the caliber of her menu too. "It's the type of quality that you'd get

spending far more in San Francisco," she says.

Friday and Saturday nights offer one of the most popular specialties — a fillet of salmon lightly sautéed in olive oil and topped with a lemon and caper salsa on a bed of asparagus, and served with a side of fettuccine Alfredo for \$13.95. "We usually sell out of it. People love it," Caruso says.

The daily lunch specials are the best bargain. For \$6.50 you get a hot entree (spaghetti or fettuccine Alfredo), soup or Caesar salad, sourdough French bread and butter.

Other items on the menu range from \$8.95 to \$10.95 and include seafood pastas, cheese raviolis and chicken and beef dishes.

The very hungry will love the meat lasagna, which is packed with Italian sausage, ground beef, ricotta and mozzarella cheese.

Vegetarians will appreciate several meatless alternatives, such as the eggplant Parmesan sandwich or the three-cheese torte.

Menu selections are available for catered events and the restaurant does an enormous amount of take out business, working with Take Out Taxi for customers who want the food delivered.

Caruso has even more ambitious plans, including marketing her family's homemade sauce.

"It's a delicious low-fat Sicilian tomato-basil red sauce. It's extremely low-fat, but not intentionally," she says. "It just happens to be that way because it's so flavorful. It blends nicely with all types of dishes, from chicken to fish to meat."

Running the restaurant has become a personal triumph for her as well.



KEN PERKINS/STAFF

VALENTIN, THE CHEF (who goes by only one name) at Pasta Bella, puts the finishing touches on rigatoni with red meat sauce and a plate of linguine with clams.

"Working for yourself is a wonderful opportunity," she says, "but it's also one of the hardest things you'll ever do. This is the toughest business there is. I'm up at 6 a.m. and I usually don't go to bed until midnight, six days a

week. That's the truth."

"But you know," she adds, "it's true that when you do something you love, it doesn't really seem to be work at all." Pasta Bella, 512 Center Ave., Martinez. 925-313-9040.

Treat

FROM PAGE 1

Horseradish Cream Sauce

1 cup light sour cream
3 tablespoons prepared horseradish with beets
Salt to taste.
In a medium mixing bowl, combine ingredients and stir well. Season with salt, if desired.
Nutritional information per 2½-tablespoon serving: 53 calories, 3 g fat, 13 mg chol, 71.7 g sodium, 3 g pro.

Pureed Squash and Ginger Sauce

12-ounce package frozen, cooked and pureed

squash (thawed)
1½ teaspoons freshly grated ginger root
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 teaspoons honey
In a medium mixing bowl, combine ingredients and stir well.
Nutritional information per 3½-tablespoon serving: 31 calories, 0 g fat, 0 mg chol, 173 g sodium, 1 g pro.

Roasted Pepper and Herb Sauce

12-ounce jar roasted red peppers, drained
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
½ teaspoon Italian seasoning
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
Salt to taste
In a medium mixing bowl, combine ingredients and stir well. Transfer mixture to a blender or food processor and process until

smooth. Season to taste with salt, if desired.
Nutritional information per 3-tablespoon serving: 19 calories, 0 g fat, 0 mg chol, 206 g sodium, 1 g pro.

Barbecue Sauce

¾ cup bottled chili sauce
¼ cup steak sauce
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon dry mustard
In a medium mixing bowl, combine ingredients and stir well.
Nutritional information per 3-tablespoon serving: 53 calories, 1 g fat, 0 mg chol, 636 g sodium, 1 g pro.

Recipes from: Idaho Potato Commission
(www.idahopotato.com)

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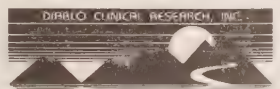
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Polenta: simple yet elegant

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chef Rozanne Gold believes "less is often more" when it comes to cooking fabulous meals. Gold limits each recipe in her latest cookbook, "Recipes 1-2-3" (Penguin Books, \$19.95), to three ingredients plus three "free" ingredients: water, salt and pepper.

In the book's introduction, Gold said that she likes to use simple restaurant dishes, which she describes as "unwrought," muddle and mask basic flavors with components instead of layering them. And she says that with fewer ingredients doesn't have to be boring or unsophisticated food, she said.

White Polenta With Parmigiano-Reggiano is an elegant dish that will look like it took more than 30 minutes plus cornmeal, garlic and cheese to make.

Polenta is typically made by adding cornmeal in a slow, steady stream to a pot of boiling water. This recipe calls for cold water, which Gold said helps reduce lumps.

She recommends adding ¾ cup cooked frozen peas to jazz up the polenta as a side dish, or topping it with grilled shiitake mushrooms when serving it as a first course.

mushrooms when serving it as a first course.

White Polenta With Parmigiano-Reggiano

Preparation and cooking time: 25 minutes

1½ cups white cornmeal

1 small clove garlic, pushed through a garlic press

7 tablespoons grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

1 teaspoon salt

5 cups water

Place the cornmeal and salt in a large saucepan.

Gradually add 5 cups water and then the garlic, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon to remove any lumps.

Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium, and cook, uncovered, about 10 minutes.

Add 5 tablespoons grated cheese and continue cooking and stirring for 5 minutes more.

Spread the polenta on a heatproof platter, sprinkle with the remaining cheese, and broil 1 minute.

Makes 4 cups.

Serves 6-8 people.

Sharing pearls of wisdom for cooking with pearls of barley

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barley is being romanced for its nutritional merits and versatility.

The National Barley Foods Council says that barley is finding its way into more dishes than just soups. And ground into wholegrain meal, barley adds a "pleasant nutty flavor and hearty heart-healthy fiber to baked goods."

In addition to specific recipes, such as Barley-Stuffed Mushrooms, the council suggests making a batch of pearl barley and freezing it in 1-cup portions in airtight containers. Then use it as a nutritious extender for meatloaf, burgers, stews and casseroles.

Barley-Stuffed Mushrooms

Preheat oven to 375 F.

In a small saucepan, bring barley and water to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook 45 minutes, or until barley is tender and liquid is absorbed. Set aside.

Remove stems from mushrooms and chop the stems. Set aside.

In a large skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil over medium heat.

Add garlic and sauté 1 minute.

Stir in chopped mushroom stems, bell pepper, basil and onions.

Stir and cook for 4 minutes. Stir in walnuts, salt, pepper and barley; cool slightly.

Place mushroom caps, hollow side up, on a baking sheet and brush with remaining olive oil.

Divide barley equally and fill each cap. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until filling is hot and cheese is melted.

Makes 18 mushrooms.

Nutrition information per mushroom: 66 calories, 3g pro, 4 g carbo, 2 g fiber, 4 g fat, 3 mg chol, 166 mg sodium.

Preheat oven to 375 F.

In a small saucepan, bring barley and water to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook 45 minutes, or until barley is tender and liquid is absorbed. Set aside.

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Try a hearty Hungarian potato soup

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Save time from stovetop to table by using ground beef instead of stew beef for this Hungarian Beef-and-Potato Soup. Although the recipe calls for diced potatoes, you can save even more preparation and cooking time by using wide egg noodles. And you can ratchet up the taste by substituting some of the sweet paprika for hot paprika.

With crusty bread and crispy green salad, you have a meal. The recipe, from "Food & Wine Books," recommends a Cotes-du-Rhone-Villages wine to complement the soup.

Hungarian Beef-and-Potato Soup

1 pound ground beef

1 large onion, chopped

1 green bell pepper, chopped

2 tablespoons flour

1 pound boiling potatoes (about 3), peeled and cut into ½-inch cubes

2 tablespoons paprika

¼ teaspoon cayenne

1 teaspoon dried marjoram

1¼ teaspoons caraway seeds

1¼ teaspoons salt

1 tablespoon tomato paste

3 cups canned low-sodium beef broth or homemade stock

3 cups water

In a large pot over moderate heat, cook ground beef, stirring to break it up, until meat is no longer pink, about 2 minutes.

Reduce heat to moderately low.

Add the onion and bell pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables start to soften, about 10 minutes.

Stir in the flour. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute.

Add potatoes, paprika, cayenne, marjoram, caraway seeds, salt, tomato paste, broth and water. Bring to a boil.

Reduce the heat and simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 10 minutes.

NOTE: If you use wide egg noodles, simmer the soup about 5 minutes instead of 10 since the noodles take less time than potatoes to cook.

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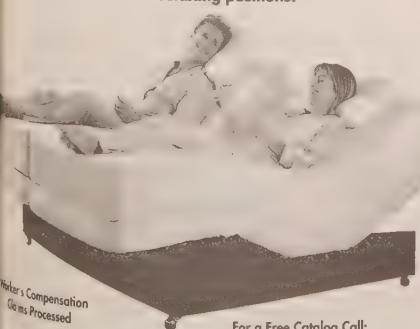
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Tabasco and Firefighters: the Perfect Ingredients

By Sylvia Carter
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK — When the folks from Tabasco called and asked me to be a judge in the first national Tabasco Cook & Ladder Competition, I said yes in a New York second.

I keep a bottle of Tabasco at my desk for food emergencies. I believe it improves the taste of almost everything. I ask for it in restaurants for kicking up the taste of so-so food. I believe in Tabasco.

Besides, Keith R. Young of Freeport, N.Y., of Ladder Co. No. 156 in Brooklyn, was one of the 10 firefighter finalists.

Best of all, or so I thought, I would get to meet fellow judge Paul McIlhenny, the president of the company that bears his name and makes Tabasco sauce. (Andre Soltner, the former owner of Lutece who is now a master chef at the French Culinary Institute, was a judge, too, but I had met him a time or two in the past.) This was almost as good as getting to visit Avery Island in Louisiana, where Tabasco is made.

As it turned out, meeting McIlhenny recently was a thrill, but it was hard to top the silk Tabasco scarf that was my reward for being a judge. (The male judges received Tabasco ties.)

We arrived at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School in Manhattan, where the contest was to be held, so early in the morning that I asked Young, who is also a massage therapist, a dumb question. Do you use a lot of Tabasco at the firehouse, I inquired?

"You don't need a lot of Tabasco," Young replied cheerfully. Of course, I knew that.

"All the guys at the firehouse like it," he added as he fried shrimp for his dish, spicy shrimp cordon bleu in mushroom Cognac Tabasco sauce.

I went to get a cup of coffee and discovered that Kenneth J. Delmonico Jr., of Denver, one of the finalists, had made a big pan of thickly iced cinnamon rolls in addition to his pasta dish.

Young, Delmonico and the other finalists were chosen from 180 entries that came in from more than 100 fire companies. Jason Gronlund, the McIlhenny company chef, cooked the recipes of 20 semifinal-

ists to choose the 10 that were vying for top honors. The stakes were high. First prize would be \$10,000, second \$5,000 and third \$2,500, to be split, in each case, between the winner and his firehouse.

Hordes of cameras were there to document the event, and some interviewers tried to throw McIlhenny off his stride, but they were no match for the Tabascomeister.

Tabasco belongs in everything? What about milk shakes, asked one?

"Boring," said McIlhenny, "dull without Tabasco."

Tabasco ice cream?

"We have a chef who makes it all the time," declared McIlhenny.

After sampling hearty ribs and potatoes, shrimp bread pudding, several pastas and other entries, the judges repaired to an empty kitchen to decide on the winners.

We observed that in this kitchen, Tabasco was in a place of honor right next to the salt, where it rightfully belongs.

"There's no prettier sight in the world," observed McIlhenny, "than a chef's size bottle of Tabasco with an inch of Tabasco left in the bottom, and it's still red," instead of oxidized to brown.

Loyally, Soltner and Gronlund voiced the opinion that perhaps the fish tacos, which ended up in third place, contained so much chipotle pepper that it obscured Tabasco. But New York City Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen, who was also a judge, McIlhenny and I liked them a lot.

"I could have eaten the whole thing," McIlhenny protested. "We can be generous," he said, about the competition from the chipotle peppers.

Both the first and second place winners had some culinary training under their belts. Young, who took second, had worked in kitchens at several Long Island restaurants, after attending Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island. Phillip Winston, first-place winner, from Salt Lake City, had taken some culinary short courses. He sent five recipes, adding a dessert only after his wife urged him to.

Here are the top recipe from the Tabasco contest.

Do not be intimidated by the long list of ingredients. The winning recipe is actually not difficult to make and can be done in stages. If

you cannot find Plush Pippin apples, substitute Golden Delicious or other sweet apples.

LAYERED APPLE CHEESE TORTE WITH CARAMEL SAUCE

For crust:
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
2 large eggs
1 3/4 to 2 cups flour
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 3/4 cups frosted cornflake cereal

For apple filling:
6 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced paper thin, preferably using a mandolin
6 small Plush Pippin apples, peeled and sliced paper thin
2 teaspoons lemon zest
2 teaspoons Tabasco Green Pepper Sauce
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup sugar

For cheese filling:
2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
For caramel sauce:
1 pound caramels
1 cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon Tabasco Original, or to taste

Additional apple slices, optional

1. For crust: Cream butter, sugar and vanilla in medium bowl. Add eggs and mix until smooth. Add flour and salt and mix until dough forms a ball. If the dough is too sticky, add a bit more flour. Place ball in refrigerator and chill for 2 hours. Using floured hands, press dough into bottom and sides of a 9- or 10-inch springform pan. Sprinkle bottom with frosted cornflake cereal. Refrigerate.

2. To make apple filling: Place apple slices in bowl. Add zest, pepper sauce, cinnamon and sugar and mix well. Layer on top of crust in springform pan. During baking, press apples down with the back of a spoon a few times. Bake for 40 minutes in preheated 350-degree oven. Let cool at room tempera-

ture.

3. Combine cream cheese, sugar, whipped cream and sour cream. Mix thoroughly. Add cinnamon and vanilla. Spread over cooled layer of apple filling. Refrigerate for several hours.

4. Combine caramels and heavy cream in saucepan and simmer over low heat until caramels are melted, stirring frequently. Add Tabasco and serve over the torte. Garnish with additional apple slices if desired. Makes 10 firehouse servings, 16 regular servings.

This is Keith R. Young's second-place winner.

SPICY SHRIMP CORDON BLEU IN MUSHROOM-COGNAC TABASCO SAUCE

For sauce:
1 medium onion, diced
6 cloves garlic, diced
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 (14-ounce) package fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 ounce Cognac or brandy, optional

1 tablespoon flour
1 (14 1/2-ounce) can chicken broth
1 teaspoon salt
1 pint (2 cups) heavy cream
1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons Tabasco

Original
For shrimp:
2 pounds shrimp (16 to 20 to the pound)

1/2 pound prosciutto, sliced thin and cut into 2-by-1-inch pieces
1/2 pound mozzarella, sliced into thin 2-by-1-inch pieces
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
1 cup flour
9 eggs, beaten

1. In a medium saucepan, saute onions and garlic in olive oil until translucent. Add mushrooms and saute until soft.

2. Add Cognac or brandy and let cook down for about 1 or 2 minutes, for alcohol to evaporate. Stir in 1 tablespoon flour, stirring to coat the vegetable mixture. Add chicken broth, while stirring, and let mixture reduce by 1/2.

Please see TABASCO, Page 7

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Two kinds of cookies: Food mavens turn the tables on Internet marketing scheme

By Erica Marcus
NEWSDAY

For people of the baking persuasion, the recent publication of a so-called computer "cookies" — those little markers dropped onto your hard drive by Web sites you visit — is a distasteful development. The word "cookie" associated with a potentially craven scheme to aid Internet marketers is like the name of a recently nabbed serial killer has the same first name as your dad.

While some computer cookies are admittedly harmless, simply enabling the host Web site to recognize visitors and remember their passwords, other cookies enable vast Web-based advertising networks to chart a visitor's journey, compiling personalized e-dossiers that can be traded or sold.

Cookie-dropping Web sites claim they are only trying to learn more about us, and what harm could that do? We decided to turn the tables on electronic cookie mongers and try to learn something about them. To narrow the field, I looked in my own computer's hard drive and then called the companies that had left cookies — the electronic kind — to inquire about their favorite cookies — the eating kind. A number of companies, most in fact, were not interested in having a dialogue, but a brave few returned my calls. To wit: Britannica.com had left two cookies for me. When I wrote to Kent Devereaux, senior vice president in charge of product development and editorial content for the Web site, he wasn't surprised. "For us, cookies are the least obtrusive way to personalize the experience for the user," he said. But he understood my disaffection with the term. "As one whose lunch usually consists of cookies," he confessed, "I, too, have fond associations with the term." In fact, Devereaux was eating a lunch cookie during our interview, "a big chocolate chip cookie from Starbucks. I'm a chocolate chip cookie connoisseur," he claimed ("no Chips for me"), and a baking enthusiast who likes to share cookies with his 12-year-old son.

Devereaux advised me to search his Web site for cookie recipes. Cookie recipes from the Encyclopedia Britannica? "What better way to show the enlarged breadth of Britannica," he responded. "One of the things we're trying to do is express that we're more than an encyclopedia. We've got news, weather, sports, cookie recipes."

Another chocolate-chip-cookie partisan is Paul Moulton, executive vice president in charge of e-commerce and marketing for Costco.com. Moulton characterized his company's cookie as "an innocuous piece of text that tells our computer what kind of browser you're using so we can present our site to your browser in the best possible way." The term "cookie" didn't particularly bother him. "Look," he said, "you could put poison in cookies and distribute them to little children, but cookies still aren't something people should be afraid of."

When we moved into the gustatory part of the interview, Moulton perked up audibly. "I know a lot more about those kinds of cookies," he said. "How to eat them and how to make them." Moulton's favorite cookie to bake is a Famous Amos knockoff. "I start with the Nestle Toll House recipe," he said, "then I add coconut, cinnamon and a good-quality nut, usually pecans." A busy man, Moulton sometimes has to resort to store-bought cookies, and at these times he turns to Pepperidge Farm Sausalitos.

Like the good people at britannica.com, Moulton took the opportunity to draw a link between cookies and the fine products sold by his company. "Costco has a great cookie pack with white-chocolate, macadamia-nut cookies."

Tupperware.com seemed to be waiting for my call. "It's so timely that we're talking," said Bette Zaret, vice president of marketing for Tupperware U.S. "Every month we have a different theme, and March is sweet ideas for smart cookies." This theme is reflected in the fliers that are distributed at Tupperware parties, and also at tupperware.com where electronic cookies

are used "so that when you become a member of the Tupperware club, you can be recognized."

Other businesses might have to stretch to make the cookie connection. Not Tupperware. "Cookies are not only a Tupperware mainstay," said Zaret, "we believe in cookies as a great way for families to bond." She continued, "We have an incredible number of mixing bowls, storage containers for wet and dry ingredients, rolling pins, cookie cutters, cookie lifters, cookie storer, cookie decorators, places to hold sprinkles. We're all about cookies."

Zaret loves cookies, but she cited four "absolute favorites": hazelnut biscotti, "those pecan cookies that melt in your mouth," her mother's almond crescents and her mother's filled lemon cookies. (Among packaged cookies, Zaret is partial to Pepperidge Farm Mint Milanos.)

Linda Braun, consumer services director for the American Egg Board, was initially dismayed to learn that eggboard.com had dropped a cookie on my hard drive. "I've found cookies on my machine as well," she lamented. But when she realized that I wasn't calling to complain, she conceded that they did serve a purpose. "We're responsible to the egg producers who pay us," she said, "and we need to tell them how many people visit our site, where they linger, whether we need to make changes."

Braun's cookie preference came as no surprise. "When I get a hankering for something," she said, "it's going to be chocolate chip cookies." But she also managed to steer our conversation to one of the Egg Board's apparent talking points. "Some people," Braun confided, "are very concerned about their fat and cholesterol intake. And for them, you could make For-

gotten Cookies, which use egg whites, no yolks and no fat." She kindly faxed me the recipe.

FORGOTTEN COOKIES

2 egg whites
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 cup sugar
Variation ingredients

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. In a small bowl, beat egg whites with cream of tartar at high speed until foamy. Add sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time, beating constantly until sugar is dissolved and whites are glossy and stand in stiff peaks. Beat or fold in variation ingredients.

2. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto greased or lined baking sheets. Bake until firm, about 1 hour. Turn off oven and let cookies stand in oven until cool, dry and crisp, at least 1 hour. Makes 3 to 5 dozen cookies.

Variations: Chocolate Nut: Beat in 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Fold in 1/2 cup chopped nuts.

Citrus: Beat in 1 tablespoon grated orange peel, 1/4 teaspoon lemon extract and a few drops yellow food color.

Coconut macaroons: Beat in 1 teaspoon vanilla. Fold in 1/2 cup flaked coconut. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls. Bake at 325 degrees until lightly browned, about 20 minutes. Cool slightly before removing to wire racks, then cool completely.

As promised, a visit to britannica.com yielded links to a number of cookie recipe sites. A recipe submit-

Please see **COOKIE**, Page 6

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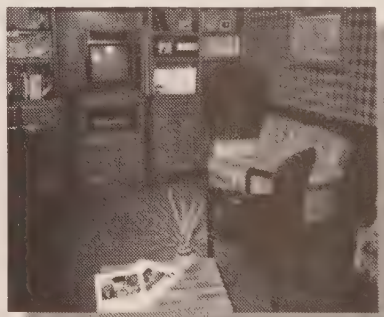
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Leeks should be roasted for full flavor

Shrimp, roasted leeks and chive fettuccine

By Jimmy Schmidt
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Have you ever noticed what looks like a giant green onion on the produce shelves? It's a leek, a kissing cousin of the onion. Today we'll make a pasta dish that will take advantage of their mild sweetness.

What exactly are leeks? Leeks are members of the lily family along with onions, garlic and shallots. They have a thick, cylindrical white stalk with a slightly bulbous root end and many flat, dull, dark green leaves. The stalk's flavor is sweeter and stronger than a scallion but milder than an onion.

Leeks are available pretty much year round, though they are most plentiful from fall to spring. It is said that leeks with the longest white bases are the most prized for use in the kitchen.

Advantages: Leeks have been credited with numerous health benefits, from building strength to preventing gray hair and quieting the common cough. As members of the onion family, they contain certain anti-cancer agents.

Selecting leeks: For the finest flavor, select small to medium size leeks, with fresh, long white stems. Avoid leeks that show evidence of rot, browning or yellowing, or have been excessively trimmed by the grocer. Leeks can be stored unwashed in the refrigerator for a few days, if necessary, but are best if used fresh from the market.

Preparing leeks: Leeks are banked with soil to develop the stems, so they are always sandy and need to be washed thoroughly. Banking protects the root from exposure to sunlight, thus keeping it

white and tender.

Trim off the dark green leaves, which can be used for flavor stocks. The bulb or shaft should be cut in half lengthwise almost down to the root to allow for thorough cleaning without having it fall apart.

My favorite preparation: Roasting is my favorite way of preparing leeks. This concentrates the flavor rather than diluting it in a stock or soup.

Start with a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil that's double the size needed to lay out the leeks side by side. Clean the leeks as described, shaving off the roots but keeping the base intact.

Place the leeks in a bowl. Drizzle an even coat of olive oil, slivered garlic, salt, freshly ground black pepper and, if you like, a little coriander and a few crushed red pepper flakes.

Lay the leeks side by side on half of the foil. Sprinkle with chives. Fold the foil over the leeks and crimp all of the edges to seal the packet. Transfer to a cookie sheet and place on the lower rack of a preheated 400 degree oven.

Cook until tender about 1 hour, depending on the size of the leeks. Remove from the oven and allow to cool before piercing the foil.

Tricks of the trade: The foil method is a great way to preserve the leeks' flavor.

The trick is to make sure the leeks are allowed to cool until just warm before you open the foil packet. Piercing the foil releases the vapors — and that means the flavor.

Serving suggestions: I enjoy these roasted leeks with a light

vinaigrette just as they are. Try dicing them up and adding to your favorite recipes.

Try your technique: Try an unusual but great flavor — leeks married with the flavors of the sea in this Shrimp, Roasted Leeks and Chive Fettuccine.

Shrimp, Roasted Leeks and Chive Fettuccine

2 medium leeks, trimmed
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

8 large cloves of garlic, peeled and sliced paper thin

Coarse kosher salt or regular table salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Crushed red pepper flakes, optional

1 cup snipped fresh chives, divided

1 pound uncooked fettuccine

1 1/2 pounds Gulf shrimp, peeled and deveined

1 red bell pepper, washed, cored, seeded, diced

1 cup white wine

1/4 cup shaved Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Start by cleaning the leeks. Remove the coarse, dark green outer leaves and reserve for flavoring stocks and soups. Cut the shaft of the leek lengthwise in half almost down to the root, but leave it attached. Rinse well under cold, running water. Once thoroughly cleaned, slice off the roots leaving just the base of the root intact so that the leeks stay together and retain their shape.

Trim the top green leaves down to about an inch. Place the leeks in a bowl.

Drizzle to thoroughly coat with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, slivered garlic, salt, freshly ground black pepper and a few crushed red pepper flakes, if you wish.

Cut a sheet of heavy-duty aluminum foil twice as large as the area needed to lay the leeks side by side. Place the leeks on half of the foil. Sprinkle with about 1/4 cup of the chives.

Fold the foil over the leeks and crimp the edges to seal the packet.

Transfer to a cookie sheet and place the sheet on the lower rack of the oven.

Cook until tender, about 1 hour, depending on the size of the leeks.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool until warm before piercing the foil. Once cooled, cut the leeks crosswise into 1/4-inch-wide slices.

Set the leeks aside with the garlic slivers and all the juices in the foil packet.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add a little salt and then add the fettuccine and cook until it is al dente, or firm to the bite.

Meanwhile, in a large nonstick skillet, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil over medium-high heat.

Season the shrimp with salt and

pepper and sear in the skillet about 2 minutes.

Turn over, add the diced peppers and cook until about halfway done, about another 2 minutes.

Add the cut-up leeks, garlic and juices to the shrimp, tossing to combine. Add the white wine and cook for about 5 minutes. Season generously with salt and pepper.

When the fettuccine is cooked, transfer to a colander to drain. Do not rinse. Transfer to the saute pan with the shrimp and leeks. Toss to combine.

Cook until the liquids have reduced to coat the noodles, about 2 to 3 minutes. Add the remaining 3/4 cup of chives.

Adjust the seasoning to taste.

Transfer to the warm serving plates or pasta bowls. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese on top.

Serve immediately.

Makes 4 main-course servings.

—Tested by Jimmy Schmidt

670 calories (17% from fat), 12 grams fat (3 grams sat. fat), 96 grams carbohydrate, 41 grams protein, 282 mg sodium, 176 mg cholesterol, 198 mg calcium, 4 grams fiber.

(Michigan chef Jimmy Schmidt is the proprietor of the Rattlesnake Club in Detroit, Jimmy's Double A Bar and Grill in Ann Arbor, Chianti Tuscan Grill in Southfield, Jimmy's in Grosse Pointe Farms and Smitty's Grill in Rochester.)

Cookies

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FABULOUS CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 pinch ground cinnamon

1/2 cup butter or margarine

1/2 cup white sugar

1 cup brown sugar

2 eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 teaspoons honey

3/4 cup semisweet chocolate

1/3 cup chopped pecans

1/3 cup shredded coconut

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.

Sift together flour, baking soda and cinnamon, set aside.

2. In a medium bowl, cream together the butter, white sugar, brown sugar, Beat in the vanilla and honey. Stir in the ingredients, then fold in the late chips, nuts and coconut.

dough by teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet.

3. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes. The preheated oven, until the cookies are golden around the edges. Remove from the baking sheet and cool on wire racks. Makes 36 cookies.

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Student cook stirs up a winning walnut recipe

of them were worth the effort, which is what the Walnut Board shelled out for the students in a recipe competition at the Culinary Institute of America.

Christine Leopold, studying at the Culinary Institute of America in New York, campus, won the Walnut Board's recipe for Roasted Fennel Soup With Walnuts and Stilton.

Recipes all containing walnuts, were judged on taste, creative use of ingredients, ease of preparation and appearance. In addition to the prize, there were first- and second-place awards for appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts.

Fennel is low in calories but high in Vitamin A and minerals such as calcium, potassium and iron. When combined with walnuts that provide protein, fiber and essential fatty acids like omega-3's, "the combination becomes a delicious nutritional powerhouse for any season."

The soup recipe and that for Roasted Macaroons follow. The macaroons, created by Karen Bornarth of the CIA campus in Greystone, N.J., won first-place in the dessert category.

Roasted Fennel Soup With Walnuts and Stilton
Large bulb fennel, cut into quarters
2 tablespoons canola oil
1/2 cup salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 leek, white part only, sliced
1 cup russet potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 cups chicken stock
2 tablespoons dry sherry
1/2 cup half-and-half
1/2 cup toasted walnuts, coarsely chopped
1/4 cup Stilton cheese, crumbled
1 lemon, zest only, finely chopped
1 tablespoon fresh chives, minced

Preheat oven to 400 F. Toss fennel with 1 tablespoon oil. Sprinkle with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper. Roast fennel on baking pan until tender and golden brown, about 15 to 20 minutes.

While fennel is roasting, heat remaining oil in a heavy, medium-sized pot over a medium-low flame. Add leeks, stirring to coat with oil. Cover pot and cook the leeks for 5 minutes, until they are translucent. Add potatoes and stock. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until the potatoes are fully cooked, about 20 minutes. Puree mixture with a hand-held blender or in a food processor until smooth.

Allow fennel to cool. When easy to handle, slice fennel in 1/2-inch strips. Add to potato mixture, along with dry sherry and the half-and-half to reach the desired texture of the soup. Return to a simmer and stir in fennel pieces. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Toss Stilton cheese with the lemon zest. To serve, ladle soup into warm bowls, top each with a tablespoon of the Stilton mixture.

top of butterflied shrimp, followed by slices of mozzarella. The mozzarella must be on top of the prosciutto. This is important while cooking.

6. Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet with deep sides over medium heat. Dredge shrimp in flour, then in eggs.

7. Place shrimp cheese side down in hot oil, so that the egg bonds the cheese and meat to the shrimp. It is important to do it this way.

8. Cook shrimp for about 1 to 2

Recipes, all containing walnuts, were judged on taste, creative use of ingredients, ease of preparation and appearance.

Sprinkle with minced chives and extra walnuts if desired.
Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 300 cal, 22 g fat (5 g saturated fat) 22 mg chol, 489 mg sodium, 7 g pro, 19 g carbo, 4 g fiber.

Walnut Macaroons
2 cups walnuts
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large egg whites
Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 375 F. In a food processor fitted with the blade attachment, finely grind the walnuts with 2 tablespoons of the sugar. Combine the ground walnut mixture, remaining sugar, egg whites and salt in the top of a double boiler over, but not touching, simmering water. Heat the mixture, stirring constantly, until the sugar dissolves (to 130 F). Remove from the heat and let cool to room temperature.

To shape macaroons, spoon the mixture into a pastry bag fitted with the 1/2-inch plain tip. The mixture should be soft enough to pipe but firm enough to hold its shape. If it is too stiff to pipe, add more egg white, a little at a time, until the mixture has the proper consistency. Pipe 2-inch half-dome shapes on a parchment-

lined or buttered baking sheet.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes, until the macaroons are very light brown and the tops crack slightly. Cool on the baking sheet and store in an airtight container. If the macaroons stick to the parchment, spray the back of the paper with water to remove them easily.

NOTE: If you don't have a pastry bag, drop gently rounded large tablespoons of the mixture onto the baking sheet.

Makes about 15 macaroons.
Nutritional information per serving: 391 cal, 25 g fat (2 g saturated) 7 g protein, 41 g carbo, 2 g fiber, 71 mg sodium.



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Tabasco

ON PAGE 4

1. Add salt, heavy cream and Tabasco. Simmer very gently for another 10 minutes.

2. Set sauce aside until shrimp is ready to serve.

3. Clean, devein and butterfly shrimp.

4. Place pieces of prosciutto on

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THE JOURNAL

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D. Mantel Shelves

24" Mantel reg. 29.99 **SALE 19.99**
36" Mantel reg. 36.99 **SALE 24.99**
See inside for details.

Spring
decorating
La Venita Primavera.

**69⁹⁹****Stacking Table set by Fetco**

Stack up savings and style with this contemporary accessory. A fitted solid wood design makes rearranging a snap. Plus, you can entertain guests with themed photo displays in each matted, multi-collage glass top. Black, Dark Walnut. Some assembly required. reg. 99.99 **SALE 69.99**

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THE JOURNAL

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